

CLINTON TRIES TO QUELL EMAIL CONTROVERSY



Hillary Rodham Clinton answers questions at a news conference at the United Nations, Tuesday, March 10, 2015. Clinton conceded that she should have used a government email to conduct business as secretary of state, saying her decision was simply a matter of "convenience."

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

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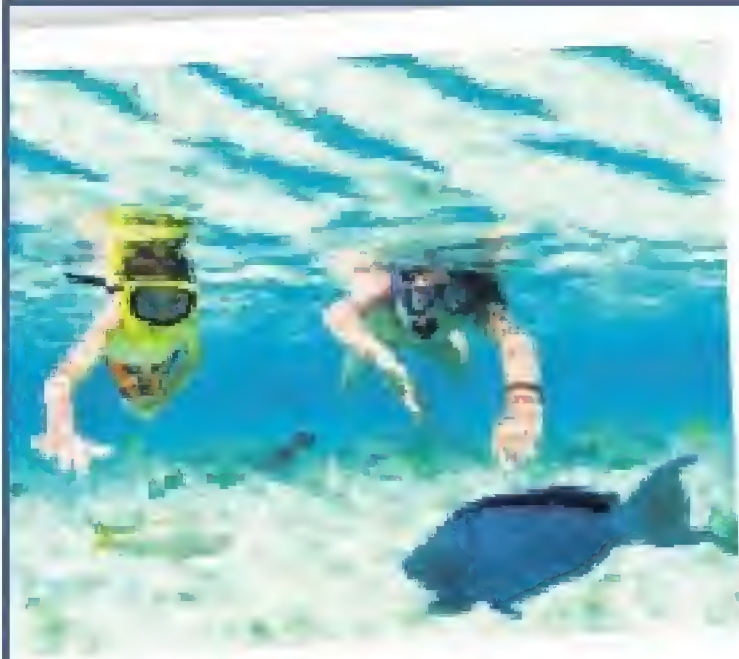
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Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks to the reporters at United Nations headquarters, Tuesday, March 10, 2015. Clinton conceded that she should have used a government email to conduct business as secretary of state, saying her decision was simply a matter of "convenience."

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

Clinton

AMY CHOZICK
ALAN RAPPEPORT

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Hillary Rodham Clinton on Tuesday defended her exclusive use of a private email address during her time as secretary of state, saying that she did so as a matter of "convenience," to make life simpler by using one device and one email account.

"I thought using one device would be simpler; obviously, it hasn't worked out that way," she said in her first public comments since the issue emerged last week.

She said that most of her emails were work-related, went to government employees and were captured on government servers. Clinton said that the State Department would make public all of her work-related emails, which amount to about 30,000 messages. However, she said that her personal email - about issues such

as her daughter's wedding and the death of her mother - would remain private.

"I feel that I have taken unprecedented steps to provide these public emails; they will be in the public domain," she said.

Clinton spoke for about 20 minutes during a news conference, delivering a statement on women's issues and denouncing moves by Republican lawmakers to undermine efforts for a nuclear agreement with Iran, before turning to the controversy over her emails.

Expressing a mix of regret and defensiveness over the matter, Clinton emphasized that she broke no laws. "I fully complied with every rule," she said, adding that no classified material had been sent on her email.

However, she remained steadfast that she would not turn over personal emails and said that those messages in fact had been deleted.

"They were about personal

and private matters that I believed were in the scope of my personal privacy and particularly that of other people," she said. "They had nothing to do with work. I didn't see a need to keep them."

The State Department said Tuesday that it would publish online the full set of

emails provided by Clinton from her time as secretary of state.

"We will review the entire 55,000-page set and release in one batch at the end of that review to ensure that standards are consistently applied throughout the entire 55,000 pages," said Jen Psaki, the State

Department spokeswoman. "We said we expect the review to take several months; obviously that hasn't changed."

A smaller set, about 300 emails that had been provided to the select House committee on Benghazi, will be released earlier to the public. □



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Democrats denounce Republican letter on Iran nuke talks

BRADLEY KLAPPER
DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. congressional Democrats on Tuesday accused Senate Republicans who signed a letter to Iran's leadership of undermining President Barack Obama in international talks aimed at curbing Tehran's nuclear program and preventing the need for future military conflict. Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton also weighed in, saying Republicans were either trying to help the Iranians or hurt Obama.

As negotiators rush to reach an accord with Iran by the end of the month, partisan bickering continued in Congress, prompting Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine to ask, rhetorically: "Is the Senate capable of tackling challenging national security questions in a mature and responsible way?"

Kaine said the letter Republican freshman Sen. Tom Cotton wrote to the leaders of Iran amounted to a partisan "sideshow." The letter, signed by 47 of the Senate's 54 Republicans, drew strong condemnation from Obama

and Vice President Joe Biden. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said reflected a "rush to war, or at least the rush to the military option."

Cotton denied undermining Obama's negotiating position. Appearing on MSNBC, he said, "We're making sure that Iran's leaders understand that if Congress doesn't approve a deal, Congress won't accept a deal."

In the letter to Iran, Republican lawmakers warned that unless Congress approved it, any nuclear deal they cut with Obama could expire the day he walks out



Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, March 10, 2015. The open letter that 47 Senate Republicans sent to Iran's leadership on Monday warning about making a nuclear agreement with President Barack Obama is forcing Democrats to choose between confronting Tehran and rallying around Obama as he searches for a diplomatic solution to the nuclear standoff.

(Drew Angerer/The New York Times)

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of the Oval Office. Among the signers were members of the leadership and potential presidential candidates.

In a statement issued late Monday night, Biden said Republicans had "ignored two centuries of precedent" and he said the move "threatens to undermine the ability" of any future president to negotiate with foreign countries.

Biden, in his statement, noted that presidents of both political parties have negotiated historic international agreements. "Diplomatic recognition of the People's Republic of China, the resolution of the Iran hostage crisis, and the conclusion of the Vietnam War were all conducted without congressional ap-

proval," he noted.

The Republican-drafted letter was an aggressive attempt to make it more difficult for Obama and five world powers to strike an initial agreement by the end of March to limit Iran's nuclear program, which Tehran insists is for peaceful purposes.

Republicans worry that Iran is not negotiating in good faith and that a deal would be insufficient and unenforceable, allowing Iran to eventually become a nuclear-armed state. They have made a series of proposals to undercut or block it — from requiring Senate say-so on any agreement to ordering new penalty sanctions against Iran to threats of stronger measures. □

Boston bombing jury sees bullet-riddled message



In an undated handout photo, a note written by Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev on the inside of the boat he was hiding from police in after the bombings. The note was presented to the public for the first time on March 10, 2015, during Tsarnaev's trial for the attack.

(U.S. Attorney's Office via The New York Times)

RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr.
© 2015 New York Times

BOSTON - As he lay inside a homeowner's boat in Watertown, Massachusetts, five nights after the Boston Marathon bombing, prosecutors say, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev scrawled in pencil his justification for having taken part in the attack: avenging the deaths of Muslims at the hands of the United States, and his desire to reach the heavenly paradise that he thought his brother, who died hours earlier, had already attained. The text of the message, written on the inside of the hull, had been

previously revealed. But the government publicly displayed photographs of the note for the first time Tuesday, in front of jurors hearing Tsarnaev's capital murder case in U.S. District Court here. Tsarnaev has pleaded not guilty to 30 counts stemming from the 2013 bombing, including 17 that carry the death penalty; his defense team has said that although he participated in the bombing, he did so under the sway of his older brother, Tamerlan. The note the prosecutors showed the jury was interrupted in places by at least 11 bullet holes

made by the police during the night of April 19, 2013, before the capture of an injured Tsarnaev, who had been hiding inside the boat.

"Now I don't like killing innocent people it is forbidden in Islam but due to said (a bullet hole interrupts the text here) it is allowed. All credit goes (bullet hole)," the note reads. It also stated: "The US Government is killing our innocent civilians but most of you already know that. As a (bullet hole) I can't stand to see such evil go unpunished, we Muslims are one body, you hurt one you hurt us all."

The note added, "I'm jealous of my brother who ha(bullet hole)ceived the reward of jannatul Firdaus

(inshallah) before me. I do not mourn because his soul is very much alive. God has a plan for each person. Mine was to hide in this boat and shed some light on our actions." It also asked Allah "to allow me to return to him and be among all the righteous people in the highest levels of heaven."

The note was found by Todd Brown, a Boston police officer and bomb expert sent to search the boat for explosives and weapons after Tsarnaev's surrender. He testified that the photographs presented to the jury accurately reflected what he had found inside. Streaks of blood rolled down part of the note after it was written, Brown said. □

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University of Oklahoma expels 2 over racist fraternity video

MANNY FERNANDEZ
RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA
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NORMAN, Okla. - Officials with the University of Oklahoma here Tuesday expelled two students they had identified as playing a leading role in singing a racist chant on a bus over the weekend that has sparked outrage across the country. The university's president, David L. Boren, a former Oklahoma governor, expelled the two students but did not identify them, saying in a statement that they had "created a hostile learning environment for others." Borensaid the university was continuing its investigation of all the students involved in singing the chant, and that once the identities of other students had been confirmed, "they will be

subject to appropriate disciplinary action." The expulsion letter to the students states that the action takes effect immediately and that they can contact the university's Equal Opportunity Officer to contest the decision. The campus here has been reeling since members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon were shown in two videos chanting a song whose lyrics included racial slurs boasting there would never be a black member and referring to lynching, with the words, "you can hang 'em from a tree." The university's president as well as the fraternity's national headquarters in Illinois shut the chapter after the first video was released Sunday, and university officials severed all ties to it Monday. The fraternity's house was



A group of student-athletes and coaches march across the University of Oklahoma campus in a display of unity, in Norman, Okla., March 10, 2015.

ordered closed by midnight Tuesday and the national fraternity suspended all of the members. The video has also left the national chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon defending itself against claims that the racist song has been used for years, not just at

Oklahoma but on other campuses as well. Former fraternity members in other states have claimed on social media that the same chant was used at their colleges, and University of Oklahoma officials who are investigating said they do not believe the song

originated on their campus. "I'm not sure that it's strictly local," Boren said. One Oklahoma student told NBC News that she heard fraternity members chant the same song two years ago while on a bus to a fraternity party. "I would definitely say this is not an isolated incident," said the senior, who had asked not to be identified. The Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter at Oklahoma has had black members, but very few, and none recently, according to alumni. William Blake James II wrote on his blog that when he joined in 2001, he was only the second black member, "and there still hasn't been a third black man" and some of his former fraternity brothers, writing on Facebook, supported that account. □

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At Reno KFC:

FBI probes possible domestic terrorism

SCOTT SONNER KEN RITTER
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — The FBI is investigating an apparent attempt to firebomb a fast-food restaurant in Reno because of the possibility it could have been an act of domestic terrorism after the initials of an animal rights group were found scrawled on a drive-thru sign, local fire officials told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The FBI has confirmed the investigation at a KFC in Reno where a window was broken and a suspected flammable liquid was found inside when employees reported for work Monday morning. The initials spray-painted on the sign, ALF, are those used by the Animal Liberation Front — a group that long has accused KFC of animal cruelty.

The group most recently claimed responsibility for a fire in February 2014 that badly damaged a KFC in Upper Hutt, New Zealand. FBI spokeswoman Bridget Pappas in Las Vegas confirmed her agency is investigating, but she refused to say why. "We don't have any additional details at this time," Pappas told AP. "And because it is an ongoing investigation, we won't be commenting." Reno Fire Capt. Tray Palmer said firefighters initially responded to the scene Monday morning. "Because of the 'ALF' that was written on the outside there, we secured the scene and waited for the FBI and the FBI took over that investigation because of the potential for domestic terrorism," Palmer told the AP on Tuesday. He said

it appeared that a glass bottle had been thrown through the window containing what appears to be a flammable liquid. "It looks like it is, but until it is tested, we can't be certain," he said, adding that the FBI is supervising the testing and that he had no further comment. No one was hurt, and the Reno restaurant suffered only minor damage. The writing on the sign had been removed by Tuesday, but the drive-thru remained closed. Nicola Sheen, a national press officer for the North American Animal Liberation Press Office in Los Angeles, said Tuesday that the group is not aware of anyone claiming responsibility for the incident in Reno. "We have not received any anonymous communicate on this," she told the AP. □

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US Financial Front:

Good news for some of us: Other people are quitting jobs

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Quitting your job — all but unheard of during and after the Great Recession — is becoming more common again. That could mean pay raises are coming for more Americans.

The trend has already emerged in the restaurant and retail industries, where quits and pay are rising faster than in the overall economy. Workers in those industries appear to be taking advantage of rising consumer demand to seek better pay elsewhere.

Workers who quit typically do so to take higher-paying jobs. That's why rising numbers of quits typically signal confidence in the economy and the job market. As the trend takes hold, employers are often forced to offer higher pay to hold on to their staffers or attract new ones.

The Labor Department said Tuesday that the number of people who quit jobs rose 3 percent from December to January to 2.8 million — the most in more than six years. Quits have jumped 17 percent over the past 12 months.

Since the Great Reces-

sion ended, the figure has soared. Just 1.6 million people quit their jobs in August 2009, two months after the recession officially ended. That was the fewest for any month in the 14 years that the figures have been tracked.

Quits tend to open up more jobs for the unemployed. One barrier for the jobless in a weak economy is that few workers risk quitting their jobs to take a different one, in part because new hires are often most likely to be laid off.

So most workers stay put, leaving fewer options for college graduates, people recently laid off and others seeking work.

The rising number of quits has begun to affect many larger corporations. Frank Friedman, interim CEO at the consulting and auditing firm Deloitte, says his firm's clients, which include about 80 percent of the Fortune 500, are increasingly struggling to retain employees.

"The biggest problem for many businesses is talent retention," Friedman said. "Wages are a critical component of it. The balance of power has changed in favor of the employee."

Deloitte itself faces the same challenges. It's stepping up its hiring, in part because more of its employees have left for other jobs. The firm plans to add 24,000 people this year, including paid internships, to its staff of 72,000. That's up from the



Tyler Kelly, 19, left, fills out applications for parking enforcement and environmental compliance jobs during a public safety job fair at City Hall in Saginaw, Mich. The Labor Department released job openings and labor turnover survey for January on Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

(AP Photo/The Saginaw News, David C. Bristow)

past several years, when Deloitte typically hired 19,000 to 21,000 people, and the increase is largely to make up for more quits.

The same trend is squeezing the restaurant and hotel industries. Nearly half their workers quit last year, up from about one-third in

2010. And average hourly earnings for restaurant employees rose 3.4 percent in January compared with 12 months earlier, before adjusting for inflation. That's much better than the national average of 2.2 percent, which was barely

above inflation. About one-third of U.S. retail workers quit last year, up from one-quarter in 2010. And pay rose 3.2 percent in January from the previous year.

Individual retailers, including Wal-Mart, the Gap, and TJX Cos., which owns T.J. Maxx and Marshalls, have

announced pay raises in recent weeks.

Not surprisingly, quit rates are much lower in higher-paying industries. Just 12 percent of manufacturing workers and 14.8 percent of financial services employees left work last year. The quit rate in government was just 7.7 percent.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said that data from payroll processor ADP showed that workers who switched jobs in the final three months of 2014 received average pay increases of nearly 14 percent compared with their previous jobs. For those who remained in the same job for a year, pay rose an average 3.2 percent, before adjusting for inflation.

(Moody's and ADP work together to compile measures of hiring and wages.) For the economy as a whole, significant pay gains remain rare. Average hourly earnings rose just 2 percent in February from 12 months earlier, about the same weak pace of the past five years. Many economists expect those gains to pick up by year's end as the U.S. unemployment rate, now 5.5 percent, falls further. □

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Iraq seizes town on outskirts of Islamic State-held Tikrit

QASSIM ZAHRA
VIVIAN SALAMA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi soldiers and Shiite militiamen captured a town Tuesday on the outskirts of the Islamic State-held city of Tikrit, sealing off Saddam Hussein's hometown in preparation to confront the extremists in one of their biggest strongholds, officials said. Seizing Alam puts the offensive on course to attempt to liberate Tikrit in the coming days, the ultimate battle-readiness test for Iraqi forces now advancing there without the support of U.S.-led airstrikes. Their operation likely will set the stage for how Iraq attempts to retake the more-densely populated cities of Mosul and Fallujah from the

militants. Iraqi forces entered Alam early Tuesday morning, their armored convoys roaring past the empty arid fields and occasional palm tree before gaining full control hours later, two Iraqi officials said. By nightfall, the military sealed off Tikrit on all sides, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to journalists. Tikrit, the capital of Salahuddin province, lies about 130 kilometers (80 miles) north of Baghdad. Sniper fire and roadside bombs initially hampered the advance into Alam, said Ahmed al-Karim, the Salahuddin provincial council chief. Extremists also blew up the Alam bridge to slow



Iraqi army soldiers and volunteers prepare to launch mortar shells and rockets against Islamic State militant positions outside Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad, Iraq. Iraqi soldiers and Shiite militiamen captured a town Tuesday on the outskirts of the Islamic State-held city of Tikrit, in preparation to confront the extremists in one of their biggest strongholds, officials said.

(AP Photo)

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the Iraqi force, military officials said. After seizing Alam, Shiite militiamen held assault rifles over their heads, chanting that the Islamic State group was "unable to conquer us." Their involvement has been key in the Iraqi offensive, as have the involvement of Iranian military advisers guiding them. Among those directing operations is Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani, commander of the powerful Revolutionary Guard's Quds Force. The overt Iranian role and the prominence of Shiite militias in the campaign have raised fears of possible sectarian cleansing should Tikrit, an overwhelmingly Sunni city, fall to the government troops. Most battlefield successes in Iraq have been coordinated efforts, with Iraqi and Kurdish forces and Shiite militias fighting on the ground and the U.S.-led coalition providing air power.

The siege of the village of Amirli just north of Baghdad, when many feared the capital itself might fall, was broken last year with the help of U.S.-led airstrikes and a fighting force of mainly Shiite militias. Shiite militiamen backed by a coalition air campaign also retook the town of Jurf al-Sukhr, on Baghdad's outskirts, from the militants in October. Soleimani was a key player in both of those campaigns. But Iraqi and Kurdish officials and Shiite militia fighters all acknowledge the crucial role the coalition airstrikes played in their modest victories. And so far, the U.S. has said it isn't coordinating with Iran on its strikes and hasn't been asked to provide aerial support in the Tikrit offensive. The Islamic State group holds a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria in its self-declared caliphate. □

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Chechnya's leader vows loyalty to Putin amid Nemtsov probe



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a meeting in the Kremlin, in Moscow, Russia. Chechnya's strongman Ramzan Kadyrov on Tuesday reaffirmed an unwavering loyalty to Putin.

(AP Photo/Mikhail Klimentyev)

V. ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Chechnya's strongman on Tuesday reaffirmed an unwavering loyalty to President Vladimir Putin after receiving a medal seen by some as a move to assuage the feisty Chechen leader after one of his officers was arrested as a suspect in the slaying of a Russian opposition figure. Ramzan Kadyrov thanked Putin for awarding him the Order of Honor, one of Russia's highest decorations, saying that it would be "the lightest task" for him to sacrifice his life for the Russian leader. "We are infantrymen of the president of Russia!" he added. Some observers say the arrest of five suspects ac-

cused of involvement in the Feb. 27 slaying of Putin's prominent critic, Boris Nemtsov, could strain Kremlin's relations with Kadyrov, who has run Chechnya like his own fiefdom while relying on federal subsidies. One of the suspects, Zaur Dadaev, was a senior officer in Chechnya's police force. A judge said during Saturday's hearing that he confessed to the crime, but Dadaev said in comments carried by the daily Moskovsky Komsomolets Tuesday that he was not guilty. The newspaper quoted him as telling rights activists who visited him in prison that he hadn't been given a chance to plead innocent. Following his arrest, Kadyrov praised Dadaev as a brave soldier and a deeply

religious man. The Chechen leader also hailed another suspect, who blew himself up with a grenade when police came to arrest him at his apartment in Chechnya's regional capital, Grozny. Kadyrov's comments reflected a degree of defiance following the arrests, a rare occasion when federal law-enforcement agencies dared to prosecute those loyal to the Chechen strongman. Oleg Orlov, the head of Memorial, a respected Russian human rights group, said the arrests and the subsequent award were a message to Kadyrov. "They show Kadyrov that he's not quite his own boss, and some members of his entourage will be pun-

ished," Orlov told The Associated Press. "It's a signal: we will clean the field around you so that you know your place, but you are personally not in trouble yet." Alexei Malashenko, a Caucasus expert with the Carnegie Endowment's Moscow office, said that by awarding Kadyrov with a medal Putin assured him of his personal trust despite strong anti-Kadyrov sentiments in the Russian law-enforcement agencies. "Some people in security services of the Russian Fed-

eration don't like Ramzan Kadyrov because it's permitted to him to do everything he wants," Malashenko said. "They are like Siamese twins: Kadyrov will certainly not survive without Putin, and it would be difficult for Putin to do without Kadyrov," Malashenko told the AP. Kadyrov has used generous Kremlin funding to rebuild Chechnya after two separatist wars and has relied on his feared security force of former rebels like himself to stabilize the North Caucasus province. □

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Chicken Parmesan
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Chicken and Coconut Shrimp
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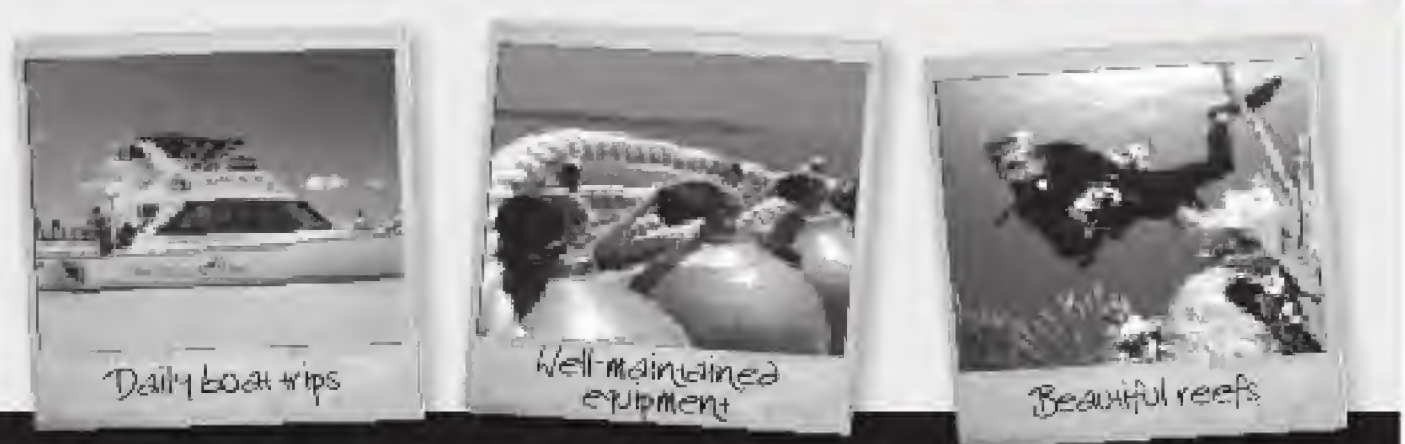
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Argentina probes copter crash; dead athletes mourned

**N. PISARENKO,
PAUL BYRNE**
Associated Press

VILLA CASTELLI, Argentina (AP) — Investigators picked through the wreckage of two helicopters Tuesday, removing cell-phones, bits of paper and other charred and unrecognizable items, as France mourned the loss of prominent athletes in the dual crash in the Andean foothills.

The eight French nationals and two Argentine pilots on the two aircraft were killed when they collided and burst into flames shortly after taking off Monday near the remote settlement of Villa Castelli in northwestern Argentina. Among the victims were Olympic champion swimmer Camille Muffat, Olympic bronze-medalist boxer Alexis Vastine and pioneering sailor Florence Arthaud. They were contestants on the reality TV show "Dropped," which was being shot in the sparsely populated region. Expressions of grief poured in from French athletes and officials, including President Francois Hollande, who said he felt "immense sadness." The International Olympic Committee announced it would fly its flag at half-staff for three days.

French officials said they would work with Argentine investigators to determine the cause of the accident. La Rioja's aviation director, Daniel Gorkich, told The Associated Press that both pilots were highly trained and he speculated that afternoon sun and strong



Police stand before the wreckage of one of two helicopters that collided in midair, near Villa Castelli, in Argentina's La Rioja province.
(AP Photo/Jose Alamo)

winds might have been a factor. At the moment of impact "the sun was setting on the Andes mountain range directly in front of them. Also this is an area with wind gusts," Gorkich said. A widely circulated video shows the blades of one helicopter hitting the rails of the second, causing both aircraft to lose control and crash. The two Eurocopters crashed about 50 feet (15 meters) apart and were destroyed. One aircraft

was so charred that only the blades were recognizable. Fabrice Pellerin, Muffat's former coach, fondly recalled the 25-year-old swimmer who won gold in the 400-meter freestyle as well as a silver and a bronze at the 2012 London

Olympics. "Always smiling. She was a fantastic person," he said. Vastine's death was a terrible loss, said Dominique Nato, the former technical director of the French Boxing Federation. "It feels like I've lost a member of my family. He was my friend, he was like my little brother." Vastine, 28, won a bronze medal at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, lost in the quarterfinals four years later in London and was looking to compete again

at the Olympics next year in Rio de Janeiro. Arthaud, 57, was perhaps the best known, for being a pioneer in sailing. In 1990, she became the first woman to win the famed Route du Rhum race, a trans-Atlantic single-handed yacht race between Brittany and the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe. "She was a fighter," said French sailor Jean-Luc Van Den Heede, who was second in the Route du Rhum race in 1998. "At the time it was extraordinary because not many women were doing this. She opened the way for others." The other French victims were identified as Laurent Sbasnik, Lucie Mei-Dalby, Volodia Guinard, Brice Guilbert and Edouard Gilles. The pilots were Juan Carlos Castillo and Roberto Abate. The wife of Castillo, Cristina Alvarez, told television station Todo Noticias that her husband was a veteran of the Falklands War in 1982 and had extensive experience flying helicopters, including in challenging places like Antarctica. Her voice cracking, she said her husband was "extremely happy" because he had recently found out he was going to be a grandfather. □

Former energy chief tells Brazil panel of bribes

STAN LEHMAN
Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — A former executive of Brazil's state-run energy company told a congressional panel on Tuesday that he began accepting bribes from some of the country's top construction firms 18 years ago. According to federal prosecutors, the scheme involved the payment of at least \$800 million in bribes and other funds by big construction and engineering firms in return for inflated contracts with Petrobras. They have said that part of that money was transferred to the governing Workers Party and other top parties for political campaigns. In a session broadcast live by the Globo TV network, Pedro Barusco told lawmakers that as part of a plea bargain deal with prosecutors, he has agreed to repatriate some \$100 million he deposited in bank accounts overseas. Barusco, the first witness to be questioned by the panel, said he and other company executives took the initiative to approach the companies for bribes in 1997.

But by 2003, "that practice had become more widespread and institutionalized," he added. He said the ruling Worker's Party received twice as much as he did in illegal payments, "which makes me estimate that between \$150 million and \$200 million went to the Workers' Party." Last week, the Supreme Court ruled that 54 top politicians be investigated for alleged ties to the kick-back scheme. □

6.2 quake hits Colombia; no reports of damage

LIBARDO CARDONA
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — A strong earthquake shook eastern Colombia on Tuesday, causing buildings to sway in the capital and elsewhere but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. The quake had a magnitude of 6.2 and was centered near the city of Bucaramanga, about 175

miles (280 kilometers) north of Bogota, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It was reported to be 91 miles (147 kilometers) deep and shook buildings across the Caribbean coast as well as western Venezuela. Caracol Radio reported that the government palace in the eastern city of Cucuta had suffered structural damages and two communications towers

had been knocked out of service. In Barrancabermeja, bricks from the roof of the city's main church fell to the ground. The city's oil refinery, the country's biggest, was unaffected. In Bogota, whose residents are accustomed to earthquakes despite Colombia's location in a seismically-active area, office workers poured into the streets after being told to evacuate tall

buildings. Photos of fallen roof tiles from the city's new airport circulated on social media but Mayor Gustavo Petro said there were no reports of injuries in the capital. "What a fright," said Maria Teresa Pearson, a 21-year-old clerk at a corner bakery whose light fixtures began to sway as the building shook for about 30 seconds. "I've never felt anything like this before." □



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Venezuela president seeks increased power after US sanctions

HANNAH DREIER
JOSHUA GOODMAN
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro is responding to new U.S. sanctions by seeking expanded powers in the name of fighting imperialism, sparking alarm among critics of his socialist administration.

Maduro lashed out at the U.S. for imposing sanctions Monday on top Venezuelan officials accused of human rights violations. The socialist leader delivered a fiery speech flanked by the sanctioned officials, promoting one and congratulating each for the "imperial honor" bestowed by Washington.

"President Barack Obama, in the name of the U.S. imperialist elite, has decided to personally take on the task of defeating my government, intervening in Venezuela, and controlling it from the U.S.," Maduro said late Monday night. "Obama today took the most aggressive, unjust and poisonous step that the U.S. has ever taken against Venezuela."

Maduro announced he would ask the ruling-party controlled Congress to grant him new powers to defend the country against

threats to its sovereignty. He didn't specify the powers or say how he'd apply them. Lawmakers were expected to take up the measure Tuesday.

Opponents blasted the plan, saying it would be used to quash dissent. Opposition leaders also raised concerns that expanded powers could allow Maduro to override the results of legislative elections expected late this year. "You wonder why the administration even needs enabling laws, given that they control the National Assembly," opposition leader Maria Corina Machado told journalists Tuesday. "This just shows that they do what they want with public institutions, and the National Assembly is just window dressing for a regime that is a dictatorship."

The U.S. is targeting officials in the top echelon of the South American country's security apparatus responsible for cracking down on last year's anti-government protests, and for pursuing charges against opponents. The officials will be denied U.S. visas and have their U.S. assets frozen. Venezuela's allies rejected the sanctions, with Cuba terming them "arbitrary and aggressive" and Ecuador



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro greets supporters during an event at the Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas, Venezuela. In a fiery speech this week, Maduro promoted one of the seven officials the White House sanctioned earlier in the day, and said he would ask Congress to grant him additional powers to "fighting imperialism."

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

President Rafael Correa calling them "a bad joke." Bolivia President Evo Morales suggested South American leaders hold an emergency meeting to address the U.S. move.

The European Union announced Tuesday it would not impose sanctions on Venezuela, though its leaders remain concerned about the country's growing polarization.

Maduro promoted one targeted individual, Major Gen. Gustavo Gonzalez, director general of Venezuela's intelligence service, to Interior Minister.

The U.S. says he was complicit in violent acts against protesters.

Decree powers were a favorite tool of Maduro's mentor, the late President Hugo Chavez, who used them to promulgate dozens of laws that dramatically boosted state control over the economy. Maduro was granted special powers shortly after taking office in 2013 to overhaul the economy, but he stayed away from major reforms.

The U.S. maintains strong economic ties with Venezuela's energy sector, but diplomatic tensions

have risen in recent months between countries that have not exchanged ambassadors since 2010.

Last summer, the State Department imposed a travel ban on Venezuelan officials accused of abuses during the protests, but didn't name them publicly. It's unclear if any of the seven sanctioned Monday were on that list. Venezuela last week gave the U.S. two weeks to slash the staff at its diplomatic mission in Caracas from about 100 to 17, and imposed its own travel ban on a list of conservative U.S. leaders. □

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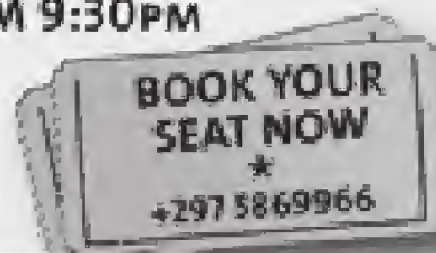
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New Zealand investigating threat to poison baby formula

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — An anonymous blackmailer threatened to poison infant formula in New Zealand to protest the country's use of poisonous baits for pest control, and sent dairy giant Fonterra packets of milk powder laced with pesticide, police said Tuesday. Prime Minister John Key said the threat was likely a hoax, and assured parents that formula was safe for babies to drink. But the announcement prompted fears of a backlash against the country's economically crucial dairy industry.

Fonterra, the world's largest exporter of dairy products and New Zealand's biggest company, and farming association Federated Farmers both received anonymous letters in November, police said. The letters were accompanied by small packages of milk

powder that tested positive for a concentrated form of the agricultural pesticide 1080 (ten-eighty), which

infant and other formula with 1080 unless New Zealand stopped using it by the end of March,



Fonterra Chief Theo Spierings talks to the media about a blackmail attempt against the dairy giant, at the Pullman Hotel in Auckland, New Zealand, Tuesday, March 10, 2015.
(AP Photo/Chris Gorman)

is used by the country's conservation department to control pests such as rats and possums. The letters threatened to contaminate

New Zealand Police Deputy Commissioner Mike Clement said. New Zealand uses 80 percent of the 1080 produced worldwide,

and many animal welfare advocates oppose its use, arguing it causes animals to suffer slow, painful deaths. Since November, dozens of police have been trying without success to figure out who sent the letters, Clement said. The blackmailer had threatened to go public by the end of the month, prompting officials to make the announcement on Tuesday. The nation's Ministry for Primary Industries said it had tested over 40,000 product samples and found no evidence that any were contaminated. "We are advised it is extremely unlikely anyone could deliberately contaminate formula during the manufacturing process and there is no evidence that this has ever occurred," Key said. "While it is very likely this

threat is a hoax, we as the government have to take it seriously and I can assure you that we are." Although Fonterra received one of the letters, the blackmailer did not specifically threaten the dairy company's products, Clement said. Still, the threat raised the prospect of consumer skittishness about the safety of the dairy giant, which suffered a brief hit to its reputation in 2013 after a false botulism scare. That incident came after it was revealed that the company processed whey protein concentrate in dirty pipes in one of its factories. Initial tests indicated the presence of botulism bacteria in the concentrate, sparking a global recall of infant formula. Subsequent tests found it to be another, less harmful bacteria. □

Barcelona brothel workers get Spanish social welfare rights

A. CLENDENNING

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — In a landmark ruling, a Barcelona judge has decided three sex workers should have been hired full-time by a brothel owner and ordered her to pay contributions to the government so the prostitutes will be eligible for national health

care, disability insurance, unemployment benefits and government pensions. The ruling issued in February — and made public this week — can be appealed and does not create a precedent for Spain's estimated hundreds of thousands of prostitutes, whose ranks are believed to have increased during

the country's crushing financial crisis that started in 2008 and lingers with unemployment at 24 percent. But advocates for sex workers said Tuesday that Judge Juan Agusti Maragall's decision is important because it recognizes the legal inability of some brothel workers to get benefits mandated for

employees of companies. It is a crime in Spain to hire sex workers, though prostitution is legal for those who work on their own. "The current situation of 'lawlessness' and the non-recognition of the occupational nature of the (work) relationship does nothing more than aggravate the

unquestionable dignity, freedom and equality involving contracted prostitution for the vast majority of the women who do it," the judge wrote in his decision. He ordered the brothel owner to pay her share of contributions to government social welfare programs for the workers going back to 2012. □

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Good Will Marks 50th Anniversary of Kiwanis Club of Aruba



PALM BEACH - The Kiwanis Club of Aruba recently celebrated its 50 Anniversary with donations to three different organizations. In a great way this was celebrated on 20th of February this year in the presence of all Kiwanis Club of Aruba members on our island. The founder of this club was the late Mr. Clint Whitfield. He was a person with a vision and an enormous perseverance. He doubted not in 1963 when he was approached by his friend the late Mr. Arthur [Tula] Jesurun to found the Kiwanis Club of Aruba. The following year this was accomplished; thanks to the help of Kiwanis Club of Curacao and Rideau Kiwanis Club of Canada.

On February 20, 1965 the Club was formally established during a meeting in the Aruba Caribbean Hotel. Of course it was Mr. Clint Whitfield who was elected as the first President. He then held for several years the position of Lieutenant Governor. He also was the only member in Aruba who served as Governor from 1978 - 1979 for the Caribbean District and Eastern Canada. Mr. Clint Whitfield died on January 12, 1993 at the age of 82 years. As a tribute to the founder of the Kiwanis Club of Aruba a wreath was placed on the grave followed with a speech by the current President Mrs. Marjory Clark in celebration of the 50th anniversary. The members of the Ki-

wanis Club of Aruba came together that same night with guests at the restaurant Trattoria El Faro Blanco to celebrate this golden anniversary. That evening, the Immediate Past President Mr. George Croes opened the event by calling forward Mr. Prakash Gupta who read the Invocation. He alleged how awarding and honored you must feel, not for being a member of this society, but to be grateful to our Lord who gave you this opportunity. In the speech of Mrs. Dr. Marjory Clark she stressed that since the founding of the Club as of today there has served 45 Presidents (including herself as the



current President), 10 Lieutenant Governors and 1 Governor. One of the oldest charter members of the club is Mr. Oscar Antoinette who could not be with us this evening due to health problems. The celebration would not have been

complete without the Club distributing several donations to the various charity foundations on the island to mark this event. The choice made was to donate to those organizations which have to do with children. The first organization that was called forward was Mr. John Fun; representative of 'Fundacion Ban Uni Man pa Cria nos Muchanan' which was a check in the amount of of AWG, 25,000 florins. The following check of AWG, 10,000 florins went to 'Fundacion Respeta mi,' which will be used for their "Cunucu Familiar" project. The last donation of the evening in the amount of AWG, 10,000 florins went to 'Fundacion pa nos Muchanan.' □





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Jan Haasnoot and Nelly van Harberden honored by ATA



CAMACURI - Recently the Aruba Tourism Author-

ity had the great pleasure of honoring two very loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at the Camacuri Residence as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as tokens of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-to-34 consecutive years.

The honorees were Mrs. Nelly van Harberden, better known as 'Oma' from De Meern, Utrecht, Holland, and Mr. Jan Haasnoot from Katwijk, Aan Zee, Holland. The honorees are loyal guests of the Camacuri Residence and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches, the restaurants, and the safety. Aruba feels like a second home to these special guests: the people are like a family to them and the Camacuri Residence is their 'home away from home.' The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Author-

ity together with Mr. Hans Timmer GM and a big group of family and friends from the honorees. □



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Sidebar changes Aruba's restaurant scene with its flavorful gourmet burgers

ORANJESTAD - Take a burger of one hundred percent prime Angus beef, add to that the freshest possible extras and tastiest sauces and voila: here is your gourmet burger. Sidebar, a newly opened, great restaurant in the Renaissance Marketplace in downtown Oranjestad, knows how to tease your taste buds with the best burgers imaginable.

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Sidebar's signature burgers have been named The Sidebar, The Afterburner, The Goliath, The Texan, The Chaser, The Primal and The Italian Job and we are sure that everyone will be able to find a burger that calls out to them. The burgers come with brie cheese, prosciutto, Cheddar cheese, zucchini, sliced steak, Bourbon bbq sauce, dripping gravy and much more, depending on your order. The best thing is that these gourmet beauties cost less than \$ 15.--, so lunch or an evening out won't break the bank.

Feel love for Sidebar's burgers; they are bursting with taste- try them all and find your personal favorite. Come on down to Sidebar and rock your Wildest West with a fabulously tasty burger that packs a punch with its layers of flavor. And if you are not in a burger mood, then Sidebar has a wonderfully varied menu of all kinds of other options, ranging from vegetarian mushrooms and spinach to a zucchini cutlet to lovely salads, homemade soups, pastas and fish dishes.

Wash your lunch or dinner down with a premium, aged Bourbon or try the ice-cold beers on tap to slake your thirst. You can choose between Heineken, Balashi, Chill, Stella Artois, Miller Light or Presidente. Come inside, at the bar or sit outside on the terrace; at Sidebar there will always be a place for you.



Picture: "THE TEXAN" GOURMET BURGER

Santos Family honored at the Marriott Ocean Club



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple who are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, as

Ambassadors of Goodwill, at the Marriott Ocean Club. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to

guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Janice Santos from Fall River, Massachusetts. Jeffrey and



Janice are loyal members of the Marriott Ocean Club, and they love Aruba for the weather, beaches, shopping, restaurants but most of all they love the Aruban people. The certifi-

cate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Stephanie Paul and GM, Mr. Erwin Noguera representing the Marriott Ocean Club. □



FULL THROTTLE
ISLAND STYLE
Enjoy the Ride

This weekly ride comes from a lady rider by the name Magalie Curiel. This bike went thru a 5 months beauty sleep, so it could wake up in the state we appreciate it now. It is a 1994 Harley Davidson Heritage, heavily modified to say the least. The stretched gas tanks come from Jesse James, followed by custom fiberglass fenders by Arien Ness with a pink-ish purple paint-job done by Paquito. The original seat is nicely re-upholstered with the H-D logo on top by Kathy of "Two In One upholstery". Engine is a stock 1340 ci breathing

through a Hypercharger air intake and blasts out via the Vance & Hines exhaust pipes. Wheels are blackened out with stainless steel spokes for a more classic look. With all the chrome parts complimenting the rest of the bike, no one can miss this bike. And as Magalie stated, there's more to come, so enjoy the ride.





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Story & pictures by Alberto Arindell



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MooMba Beach is 'home away from home' for the Montalbano family

PALM BEACH - Yes, it's true the Montalbano family considers MooMba Beach as their home away from home. This great-looking bunch feels all the stress and tension of everyday

life in New York vanish as soon as they sit down at the bar. They are having the time of their lives on Aruba, not for the first time, not for the second time, no; for the fifteenth time already!

Their annual family holiday is something that the entire Montalbano clan is looking forward to and they all have a great big sigh of utter happiness when they are touching down on the

tarmac of their favorite island. Not only the Montalbano's are going to miss MooMba Beach, but MooMba Beach is also going to miss them. But there is hope on the

horizon: the Genoa Panini sandwiches, the family's favorite, will still be on the menu, waiting for the next time that you will be coming down. See you again soon, and thanks! ☐



SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



NBA Capsules



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry celebrates after scoring against the Phoenix Suns in the fourth quarter during an NBA basketball game, Monday, March 9, 2015, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

Hawks, Warriors win 50th games of NBA season

The Associated Press

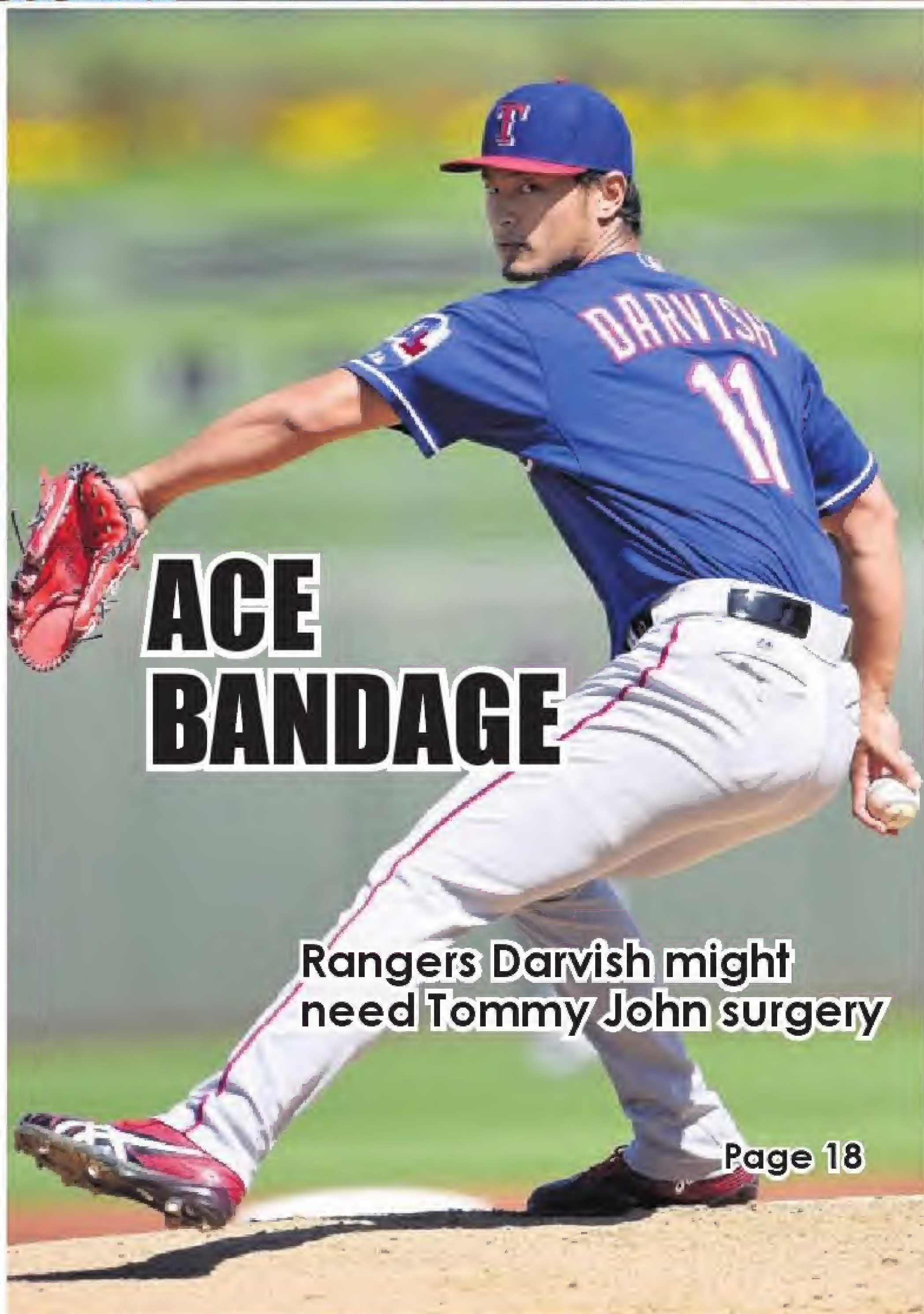
ATLANTA (AP) — Kyle Korver and DeMarre Carroll each scored 20 points as the Atlanta Hawks bounced back from a rare loss by becoming the first NBA team to 50 wins, scoring a season high in routing the Sacramento Kings 130-105 Monday night.

Resting three starters, the East-leading Hawks (50-13) were beaten by the lowly 76ers over the weekend to end a six-game winning streak. Korver didn't even make the trip to Philadelphia, the Hawks hoping the rest would help break him out of a shooting slump since the All-Star break.

Korver went 6 of 8 from 3-point range. The Hawks set a club record by going 20 of 36 beyond the arc, breaking the mark of 19 set against Dallas on Dec. 17, 1996.

The Hawks led 76-54 at the break — their most prolific half of the season. They finished with 42 assists, best in the NBA this season. Jeff Teague led the way with 13.

Continued on Page 20



ACE BANDAGE

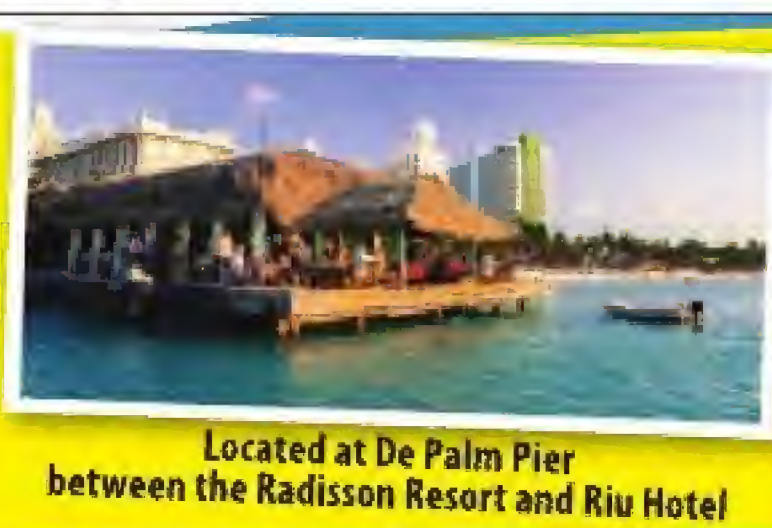
Rangers Darvish might need Tommy John surgery

Page 18

Texas Rangers pitcher Yu Darvish throws in the first inning against the Kansas City Royals in a spring training baseball game Thursday, March 5, 2015, in Surprise, Ariz.

Associated Press

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Rangers rotation suddenly Swiss cheese with Darvish out

DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — The experience was all too familiar to Rangers utility man Ed Lucas, a sinking feeling in the deepest pit of his stomach as the news filtered through the clubhouse.

Lucas was a member of the Marlins a year ago when word spread that Jose Fernandez was headed for Tommy John surgery. One of the most electrifying arms in baseball had been shut down. Surgery to repair the ligaments holding his elbow together would keep him out for the year. Now, Lucas was hearing that Texas star Yu Darvish could be headed for the same fate.

"I know watching Jose last year, everyone knows what kind of competitor Jose is and it kills you to watch him go through that, sitting on the sidelines while we're out there battling," Lucas said. "It's unfortunate that this is becoming more and more a part of today's game."

Darvish, who missed the final seven weeks of last

season with elbow inflammation, first felt lightness in his elbow while warming in the bullpen last Thursday. He kept quiet and headed

problem. Darvish headed for an MRI exam in the Phoenix area on Friday, and it revealed fraying of the ligaments in his elbow.

surgery may be likely. The options, both of them even less appealing, are to try to pitch through the injury and hope Darvish's elbow

der soreness, the "here we go again" feeling is very much real.

"We were all enjoying (spring training). Everybody was on a high note," Holland said. "Then to hear something like that will take you down real quick. And the thing is how quick can you pick yourself back up and go from there."

Holland, who hopes to get into a game by next weekend, said the rest of the rotation will have to pick up the slack. But while the Rangers still have three solid starters with Holland, Yovani Gallardo and Colby Lewis, there are now two jobs up for grabs.

Top candidates include Chi Chi Gonzalez, Nick Tepesch, Nick Martinez and Ross Detwiler.

"We're losing a main guy, one of the aces. It was a sad day," Gonzalez said. "We're still talking about it. Every time it's mentioned, you think back to it."

Now, Gonzalez is in the awkward position of potentially benefiting from Darvish's injury.

"I try not to think about it like that," he said. "Whoever gets that chance to make that start, filling that spot, you hope has a good season. I don't think like that, somebody's failure helps me out at all. Losing him, we lose a big part of the team."

Daniels did not rule out looking outside the Rangers system for rotation help, but he said guys already in the clubhouse would get the first shot at the open jobs. It didn't help his cause that right-hander Chris Young, the American League's comeback player of the year, signed a free agent deal with campus co-tenant Kansas City just as news of Darvish's injury spread. □



Texas Rangers pitcher Yu Darvish throws in the first inning against the Kansas City Royals during a spring training baseball game Thursday, March 5, 2015, in Surprise, Ariz. Associated Press

to the mound, throwing 12 pitches in his only inning of the spring training game against Kansas City.

Only afterward did he tell the training staff about the

Darvish will get a second opinion from Mets medical director Dr. David Altchek on Tuesday in New York, but Rangers general manager Jon Daniels indicated

holds together, or rest for six weeks and hope he's ready to go by the All-Star break.

Either way, it appears the Rangers will be without Darvish for a while, if not the season.

"We've got a job to do," Daniels said over the weekend, "and you have to move on. You hear the news out of the other camps, other players getting hurt, and you know, nobody is feeling sorry for them. Nobody is going to feel sorry for us, either."

If anybody deserves a little sympathy, though, it's probably the Rangers.

After setting records for players used during an injury plagued season a year ago, Daniels was hopeful karma would even out. But with Darvish on the shelf and fellow starter Derek Holland dealing with should-



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Plan abandoned plan for downtown Los Angeles NFL stadium

ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A developer abandoned plans to bring an NFL stadium to downtown Los Angeles on Monday after the proposed Farmers Field went from front-runner to impossible underdog in the race to return an NFL team to the region. With no team attached to the project and two competing stadium plans emerging in quick succession — both with NFL owners on board — the downtown plan from developer AEG went into a steep decline in a matter of months.

"We are no longer in discussion with the NFL or any NFL team," said Ted Fikre, vice chairman of AEG, which owns the NHL's Los Angeles Kings and the downtown Staples Center, home of the NBA's Clippers and Lak-

ers.

The developer had spent five years and at least \$50 million to try to bring the NFL back to the city, but AEG now says it will focus on other downtown development projects.

The announcement leaves two clear contenders for a possible NFL team to return to the area for the first time in two decades, both in cities just outside Los Angeles: a stadium in Inglewood proposed in January with the backing of St. Louis Rams owner Stan Kroenke, and a project in Carson announced last month with the joint backing of the Oakland Raiders and San Diego Chargers.

The downtown project would have been unusual for the NFL as most of the league's venues are in suburbs instead of city centers. But the project appeared to gain new life in October when the

developer asked for and received from the city a six-month extension for its deadline to attract an NFL team. AEG cited "new dialogue" with the league.

Fikre said Monday, however, that it will allow that extension to expire in April with no renewal.

The project's boosters included Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, much of the City Council and local business leaders.

Michael Eisner, former chief executive at the Walt Disney Co., told The Associated Press in November that Farmers Field would have been an ideal addition to the reemergence of downtown LA.

"It just felt to me that if we could pull this off, particularly in the downtown area, that the renaissance of Los Angeles ... could be enhanced," he said.

"I'm a Disney guy," Eisner

said. "I'm looking for the end of the movie to be happy."

Garcetti's spokesman, Yusef Robb, said the priorities of the mayor's office "have always been about accelerating downtown's revitalization," but that City Hall will be happy to cheer for a team and a stadium outside its borders.

"In terms of football, we continue to stand with the fans — we would welcome a team anywhere in our region that delivers the greatest benefit to our communities and economy," Robb said in a statement.

In Inglewood, the City Council bypassed several environmental and other hurdles late last month by adding its stadium project to an already-approved development under way at the former Hollywood Park race-track. That would appear

to put it at the forefront of Southern California cities jockeying to build NFL facilities. St. Louis and the state of Missouri are working just as quickly to provide a proposal to build a new home there to keep the Rams.

In Carson, stadium backers submitted enough signatures last week for a ballot initiative that would allow a Chargers-Raiders joint stadium on the site of a former landfill. But those two teams have said the move to the Los Angeles area would come only if their current hometowns fail to offer desirable deals.

Amid what was becoming a frenzy, the NFL circulated a memo earlier this year reminding team owners that in the end, the league and the league alone will decide whether a team — and which team — will move to the Los Angeles area. □

NBA Capsules

Continued from Page 17

Rudy Gay scored 23 points as the Kings lost their fourth in a row.

PELICANS 114, BUCKS 103 MILWAUKEE (AP) — Anthony Davis scored 43 points, tying a career high and helping New Orleans pull away to beat Milwaukee. Eric Gordon added 16 and Tyreke Evans had 13 before leaving the game in the third quarter with an ankle injury.

The Pelicans shot 59 percent for the game and 60 percent from 3-point range.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had a career-high 29 points for the Bucks, who have lost seven of nine. Michael Carter-Williams tallied 25, his highest-scoring game for Milwaukee since being acquired last month in a trade-deadline deal, and Khris Middleton scored 17.



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade, left, looks for an open teammate past Boston Celtics guard Evan Turner during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, March 9, 2015, in Miami.

Associated Press

Milwaukee took a 101-100 lead with 3:35 remaining on a runner by Antetokounmpo. Davis, who recorded his third career 40-point game, then scored eight consecutive points as New Orleans closed the game on a 14-2 run.

WARRIORS 98, SUNS 80

PHOENIX (AP) — Stephen Curry scored 25 of his 36 points in the second half

and Golden State beat Phoenix for its 50th victory of the season.

Klay Thompson added 25 for the Warriors, who at 50-12 have the NBA's best record, a half-game better than Atlanta.

Curry made 7 of 13 3-pointers, 6 of 8 in the second half, in his 13th 30-point game of the season.

Eric Bledsoe scored 19 for Phoenix. Brandon Knight

had 13 before leaving the game with a sprained left ankle in the second quarter.

The Warriors became the second NBA team to win 50 games this season. Atlanta did it with a victory over Sacramento a few hours earlier.

GRIZZLIES 101, BULLS 91

CHICAGO (AP) — Marc Gasol scored 23 points to lead Memphis past his brother Pau and Chicago. Gasol was 10 of 16 from the field for the Grizzlies, who moved to two games ahead of idle Houston for the Southwest Division lead.

Jeff Green had 19 and Zach Randolph added 16 for the Grizzlies, who held the Bulls to 43.8 percent shooting from the field and improved to 21-11 on the road.

Pau Gasol, Marc's older brother, had 13 points and 11 rebounds for his 43rd double-double of the season to match the career high he set during the

2010-11 season with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Marc Gasol started opposite his brother at last month's NBA All-Star Game.

WIZARDS 95, HORNETS 69 CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Marcin Gortat scored 20 points and Washington rolled past Charlotte.

John Wall added 15 points and nine assists, Bradley Beal had 14 points and Kevin Seraphin scored 12 for the Wizards, who ended a nine-game road losing streak.

Mo Williams scored 19 points for the Hornets, who shot just 32.5 percent (25 of 77) and committed 16 turnovers to tie their lowest-scoring game this season and end a five-game winning streak.

Al Jefferson added 14 points and Lance Stephenson 12 for Charlotte, which led twice in the first 2½ minutes, the last at 9-8 on Williams' three-point play with 9:21 left. □

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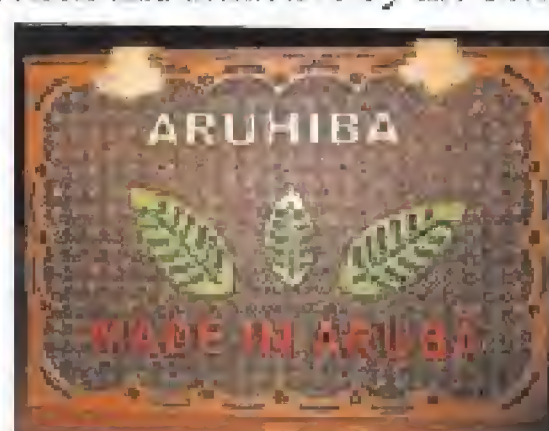
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Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also



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NHL Capsules Islanders rally for 4-3 win over Maple Leafs

The Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — John Tavares scored 4:38 into overtime, capping the New York Islanders' two-goal comeback in a 4-3 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs on Monday night.

Tavares, an Ontario native, went around several defenders to score the winning goal during a delayed Toronto penalty. With his 33rd goal and 39th assist, the Islanders captain stretched his lead in the NHL scoring race to three points.

Tavares has four overtime goals this season.

Tyler Kennedy — in his Islanders debut — Frans Nielson and Casey Cizikas all scored in the third period for the Islanders, who have a three-point lead over the New York Rangers atop the Metropolitan Division.

Michal Neuvirth made 22 saves for the Islanders, who will host the Rangers on Tuesday night. New York trailed 2-0 and 3-1 in the third period.

David Booth, Peter Holland and James van Riemsdyk scored for the Maple Leafs (26-35-6). Jonathan Bernier made 39 saves.

RED WINGS 5, OILERS 2

DETROIT (AP) — Riley Sheahan scored the go-ahead goal in the second period, Jimmy Howard made 36 saves, and Detroit ended a two-game skid with a victory over Edmonton.

Niklas Kronwall, Teemu Pulkkinen, Justin Abdelkader and Pavel Datsyuk added goals to help Detroit send the Oilers to their fifth straight loss.

Rob Klinkhammer and Nail Yakupov scored for Edmonton, and Ben Scrivens stopped 21 shots. Howard made 16 saves in the third period and allowed only Yakupov's power-play goal that made it 3-2 with 1:55 left.

Pulkkinen had given Detroit a 3-1 lead with a rebound goal at 10:40 of the third. Abdelkader and Datsyuk — with assists from Henrik

Zetterberg — both scored into an empty net in the final 1:04 to seal the win. Zetterberg had three assists overall.

PREDATORS 2, COYOTES 1, OT

GLENDALE, Arizona (AP) — James Neal put in a rebound of Seth Jones' shot 2:45 into overtime to give Nashville a victory over Arizona Coyotes that ended a season-worst, six-game skid.

Pekka Rinne made 27 saves to halt Nashville's losing streak. The Coyotes have lost 11 of 12 home games and 12 of 13 overall.

A fight between Arizona's B.J. Crombeen and Nashville's Mike Fisher set the stage for the game's first goal. Paul Gaustad got a shot through traffic and past Coyotes goalie Louis Domingue at 16:34 of the second period.

Kyle Chipchura redirected a shot from John Moore at 7:27 of the third period to tie it 1-1.

Domingue started for the Coyotes over Mike Smith, three days after his 23rd birthday and made his home debut. He stopped 35 shots.

SHARKS 2, PENGUINS 1, SO
SAN JOSE, California (AP) — Antti Niemi made 39 saves and stopped seven of eight shootout attempts

to lead San Jose to its 10th straight home win against Pittsburgh.

Tommy Wingels beat Marc-Andre Fleury with a backhand in the eighth round of the shootout, and Niemi made it stand up by stopping Steve Downie. Matt Nieto scored the lone goal for the Sharks, who had lost nine of their previous 10 home games overall.

But they have dominated the Penguins at the Shark Tank of late. San Jose has 11 wins and one tie since its last home loss to the Penguins on Oct. 22, 1997. Sidney Crosby tied the game earlier in the third with his first goal in seven career games against the Sharks.

The Sharks killed a penalty in overtime and survived Derrick Pouliot hitting the post in the closing seconds before winning it in the shootout.

CANUCKS 2, DUCKS 1

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Zack Kassian's third-period goal lifted Vancouver over Anaheim.

Bo Horvat had the other goal for Vancouver, and Eddie Lack stopped 29 shots as the Canucks beat the Ducks in regulation for the first time in more than two years. □



New York Islanders' John Tavares, left, celebrates with teammate Tyler Kennedy after scoring the game-winning goal during the overtime period of an NHL hockey game against the Vancouver Canucks, Monday, March 9, 2015, in Toronto.

Associated Press

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FRI 4:00 | 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35 | 11:35
SAT 3:35 | 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35 | 11:35
SUN & HOL 3:35 | 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35

SHARITO COPLEY | DEV PATEL
CHAPPIE
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FRI 5:35 | 8:10 | 10:45
SAT 3:00 | 5:35 | 8:10 | 10:45
SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:35 | 8:10

KEVIN COSTNER | MARIA BELLO
McFARLAND USA
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FRI 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10
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SUN & HOL 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10

WILL SMITH | MARGOT ROBBIE
focus
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
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SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30

ANTONIO BANDERAS | TOM KENNY
THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER 3D
3D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:20 | 8:35
FRI 4:20 | 8:35 | 10:45
SAT 4:20 | 8:35 | 10:45
SUN & HOL 4:20 | 8:35

GINNIFER GOODWIN | MAE WHITMAN
Disney Tinker Bell and the Legend of the NEVERBEAST
SAT 2:00
SUN & HOL 2:00

DAKOTA JOHNSON | JAMIE DORNAN
FIFTY SHADES OF GREY
MON-THURS 4:05 | 6:45 | 9:25
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SAT SAT 1:50 | 4:05 | 6:45 | 9:25
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Liver Fire

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

As we approach the clinic, a gentleman is quietly waiting for his first Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) consultation. Several other people seem restless and anxious, talking loudly, almost shouting although they have only been sitting for a short time. After a long unusual season of rain, most of us are grateful to sit in the sunshine and invite the trade winds back. However, although it is not yet the time of "high winds" as spring nears, we have bursts of the heavy breezes, which are the trade mark of our Island. The tropical sun can be unbearable with no wind, but for some, heavy wind becomes just as unbearable. In the Peoples Republic of China, we called the destructive effects of high wind, "wind evil." Most people can withstand the negative consequences of gale force wind, but some, who have been consuming greasy or otherwise unhealthy foods, drinking too much alcohol or working too much the wind may bring a "sickness."

Anger, frustration, resentment and hatred over a long period of time can also make one susceptible to the negative effects of wind. Today's group brings a mix of symptoms and complaints which has not been relieved by other methods. We will begin now, with anemia, menstrual problems, pale, fungus or easily broken fingernails, then liver problems, headaches, high blood pressure, eye and ear troubles, difficulty sleeping or waking up between 1 and 3 am. We find a whole host of stomach problems, swollen or painful chest or breast, heart palpitations, not being able to swallow in spite of no throat infection. Some "wind" affected people can be spotted

from afar. They have a green hue around their mouths. Some as they walk into clinic leave a trail of strong perfume being used to cover up a sour body smell. Some people can barely walk in before they exclaim that they are "going crazy."

The wind will get stronger as spring approaches. With more wind, more people with "affected livers" will arrive. Many will hear me say "Your liver is hot!" "What? Is something wrong with my liver? I just checked and my house/family doctor said that everything was normal on my blood tests"

A "hot" or "Liver Fire" will not show up on any medical test, except as possible liver hepatitis. If a medical symptom cannot be measured on a lab test, does it really exist? To some doctors, if all the medical tests come back "negative," then the problem is "in your head." Oriental Medical Doctors (OMD), look at human organs from a different perspective than standard or Western medicine. Western medicine studies only physical aspects of the organs. OMD's are trained to look at the amount of energy an organ uses in relation to the other organs. We use the heart beat of both radial pulses to determine the amount of energy being or not being used by each organ. We "read" or feel the pulse on both hands to evaluate 29 organ functions. Each pulse position tells us about a different organ and their relationships to each other.

For example, if there is no pulse in the Kidney position, we know that the adrenal gland, which sits on top of the kidneys, is working overtime. This can interrupt proper sleep. Without sufficient Kidney Yin, there is no "Yin" energy



to send to the Liver. If the liver has no Yin energy, hyperthyroidism or over-active thyroid, hypertension or high blood pressure, and/or eye problems develop because of "Liver Fire." If these deficiencies persist, the "Liver Fire" rises and begins to affect the stomach and heart.

Deficient Heart Yin turns sleep problems into full blown insomnia, sometimes with heart palpitations and hearing problems. Unchecked, this becomes "Heart Fire Blazing Upwards" which can be felt in the throat as "something there," mucus or a "lump." Some people have their adenoids or tonsils and even thyroid removed with the feeling continuing. When the "Fire Blazing Upwards" reaches the head, symptoms include; ringing in the ears, dry, watery or twitching eyes, headaches and migraines.

Adrenaline that is being over-produced stimulates the sympathetic nervous system. This makes the heart beat faster, closes or dilates the blood vessels and relaxes the bronchial tubes. Blood Pressure can rise and

emotional problems begin many times leading to prescription tranquilizing medication. Get The Point! People coming to clinic complaining of unexplained anger, stomach problems, heart problems, a feeling that "something is stuck in m throat", headaches at the temples, dizziness, the list goes on; yet, they are all suffering from liver fire. Natural herbs and acupuncture quickly start feeling better. We are entering the time of year when liver have a tendency to "blaze" upwards producing all these possible symptoms. Want to feel better? Come in so we can check the function of your liver and make sure you are as healthy as you can be.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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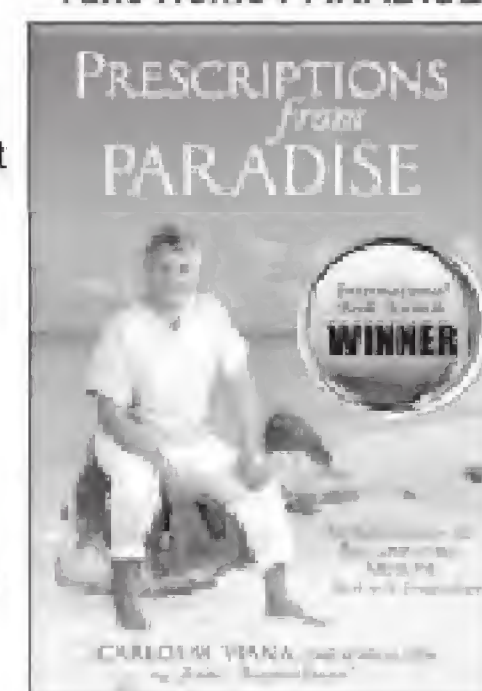
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Apple Watch moves Internet out of your pocket

BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Apple wants to move the Internet from your pocket to your wrist.

Time will tell if millions of consumers are willing to spend \$350 on up — there's an 18-karat gold version that starts at \$10,000 — for a wearable device that still requires a wirelessly connected smartphone to deliver its most powerful features.

But CEO Tim Cook is selling the Apple Watch as the next must-have device, able to serve people's information needs all day long, like no other tool has quite been able to do.

"Now it's on your wrist. It's not in your pocket or pocketbook," Cook said before unveiling the new line on Monday. "We think the Apple Watch is going to be integral to your day." Apple wants this wristwatch — which piggybacks on a nearby smartphone's Internet connection through Wi-Fi or Bluetooth — to be seen as so revolutionary that it requires its own new lingo.

So while the watch face provides most of the same information as smartphones do, the back of the watch sends "haptic feedback," tapping the wrist to remind the wearer to get up and burn more calories.

"It's like having a coach on your wrist!" gushed Cook, touting the potential health uses of a computer that sticks to your skin all day.

The gadget also introduces "digital touch," a new way of messaging that enables people to draw and send little figures with their fingertips and have them arrive on a friend's watch face dynamically, in the same way they were drawn. Convincing consumers they can't live without an



Event attendees get a look at varieties of the new Apple Watch on display in the demo room after an Apple event on Monday, March 9, 2015, in San Francisco.

expensive new device isn't easy, but Apple's strongest selling points include "convenience and immediacy," along with high-end design features and some useful new apps, said Carolina Milanesi, a tech analyst with Kantar Worldpanel.

"If you don't have to be fumbling around for your phone, that can make a difference," agreed analyst Patrick Moorhead of Moor Insights and Strategy. Initial consumer reactions ranged from die-hard Apple fans vowing to buy the watch immediately, to naysayers who don't see the point of paying so much to see updates on their wrist instead their smartphone.

"I think it's a tough market they are trying to get into, and I don't see much promise that is going to come out of it," said Joshua Powers, 21, a junior at Emerson College in Boston who owns an iPhone, an iPad and a MacBook computer. As expected, the previously announced starting price of \$349 is only for the entry-level Sport

model. Prices range from \$549 to \$1,100 for the mid-range watch. That's not out of line for a high-quality watch, analysts said.

But Cook did not answer a key question for price-conscious consumers, Moorhead noted: How will Apple update the watch when it releases new models?

Apple did answer another vital question, promising an estimated 18-hour battery life before the watch needs to be taken off and attached to a magnetic recharger.

Numerous tech companies are already selling smartwatches, from the Samsung Gear and Motorola's Moto 360 to the Pebble Steel and other models made by smaller startups. Many run on Android Wear, the software platform from Google, and range from \$100 to \$500 or more.

But most don't have as many features as the Apple Watch, and they have not been big hits with consumers.

Apple executive Kevin Lynch walked through a

simulation of a typical day, checking the watch for messages and calendar items, responding to a WeChat message, scrolling through some Instagram photos and speaking with Siri, Apple's voice-activated digital assistant, through the microphone on the watch.

More impressively, Lynch presented an airline app with a bar code that acts as a boarding pass.

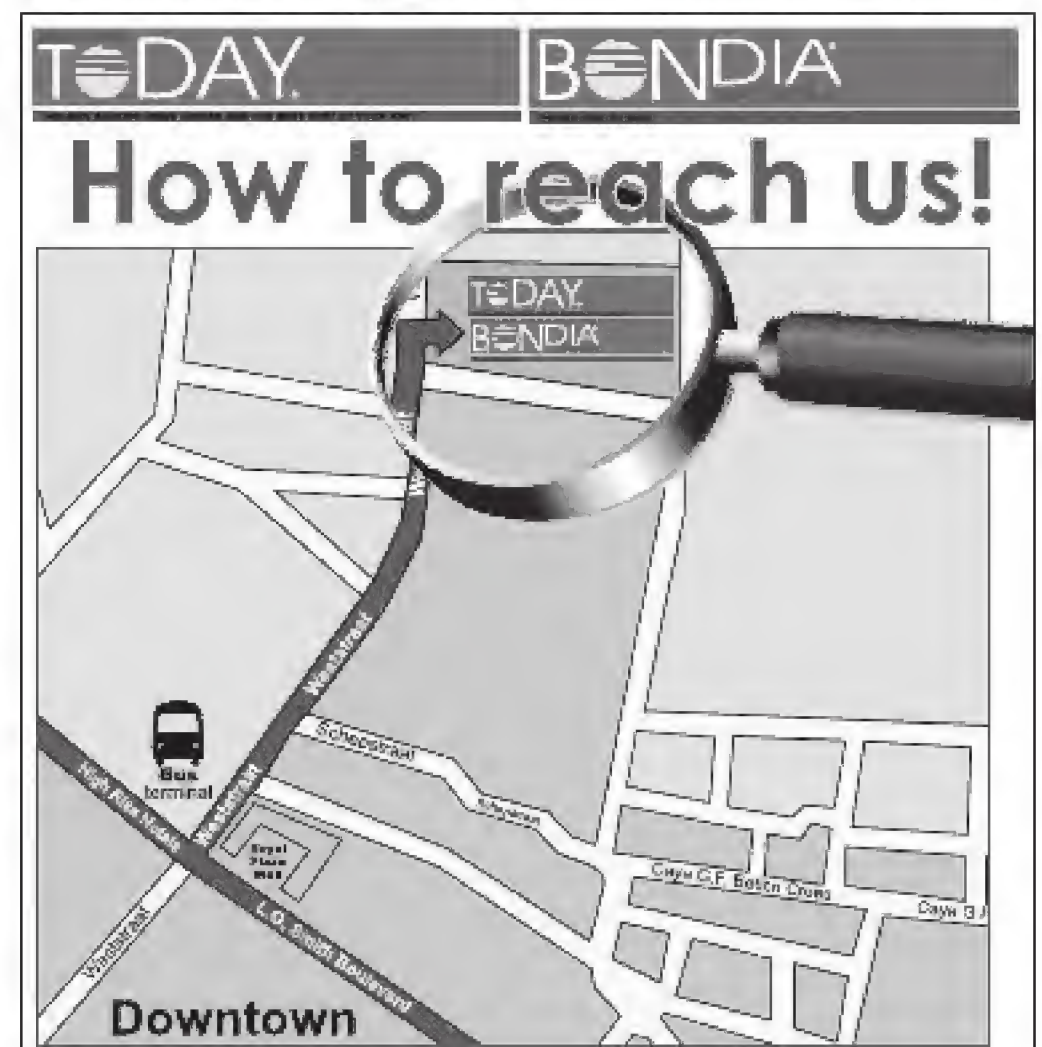
another app that opened a garage door by remote control, and still another that promises to enable wearers to check out at the grocery store with a single tap on the watch face.

Cook also showed off features that can be found on many fitness bands already on the market, such as a heart rate monitor and accelerometer that can track a wearer's movements and log daily exercise.

But some design functions seem uniquely Apple: Twist a small knob, and the wearer can quickly select the face of a friend, then sketch an image with a fingertip that shows up dynamically, just like it is being drawn, on the friend's watch face. Swipe the watch face to bring up an email, then with a single tap, turn that email into a calendar item.

Cook hinted at bigger goals when he announced Monday that Apple has worked with leading medical institutions to develop an open-source software platform for iPhones to assist with medical research. □

Associated Press



Target lays off 1,700, won't fill another 1,400 vacancies

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Target Corp. said Tuesday that it is laying off 1,700 workers and eliminating another 1,400 unfilled positions as part of a restructuring aimed at saving \$2 billion over the next two years.

The news put a number on planned layoffs first announced last week as several thousand. The company said the cuts would fall primarily on headquarters locations in Minneapolis. The layoffs would amount to about 12½ percent of the 13,500 workers there.

"Today is a very difficult day for the Target team, but we believe these are the right decisions for the

company," Target said in a statement.

New chief executive Brian Cornell has said the company needs to become more nimble and innovative. His plan calls for spending up to \$2.2 billion on capital expenditures in the current fiscal year. About half that would go toward technology as Target seeks to grow online sales in an era when more shoppers than ever are on mobile devices.

Earlier this year Target said it would end its foray into Canada, closing all 133 of its stores there and laying off about 17,000 workers.

The company is eliminat-

ing some jobs at a location in Bangalore, India, where Target has about 3,000 employees.

But the concentration of layoffs in Minneapolis has spurred concern about the effect on the regional economy and even some fretting about the company's future. Gov. Mark Dayton met with Cornell on Monday and said he was assured Target would keep a strong corporate presence and its headquarters in Minnesota.

Target has said it plans to spend about \$1 billion on technology in its current fiscal year. In the past it's spent more money on new

stores and renovations, but the company wants to speed up its online sales growth. Target and other retailers have seen their customer traffic decrease as consumers do more of their shopping online instead of at physical stores. In February Target cut its free-shipping minimum in half, saying users who orders merchandise worth \$25 or more online won't have to pay for shipping. The move was intended to help Target keep pace with competitors like Amazon, Google, eBay. Customers can also have their orders shipped to Target stores for free. Earlier this month the

company suggested it will look for other ways to get orders delivered to stores and customers faster.

Target said Tuesday that each employee being laid off would get at least 15 weeks of severance plus more based on years of service.

Target had 366,000 employees as of Feb. 1, 2014. That number does not reflect the layoffs in Canada and an updated figure was not immediately available. Shares of Target lost 83 cents to \$77.74 in midday trading. The stock is up 3.5 percent in 2015 and has climbed 28 percent over the last 12 months. □

US stocks fall sharply on fears Fed may soon raise rates

BERNARD CONDON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The seventh year of the U.S. bull market is off to a rocky start. U.S. stocks fell sharply on Tuesday, wiping out this year's gains for the Dow Jones industrial average and the Standard & Poor's 500 index. Investors are nervous because the Federal Reserve is likely to raise interest rates soon and because the dollar has been surging against major currencies, including the euro. Investors dumped stocks from the start of trading and the selling accelerated as the day wore on. All 10 industry sectors in the S&P 500 closed lower.

The Dow sank 332.78 points, or 1.9 percent, to 17,662.94. The S&P 500 fell 35.27 points, or 1.7 percent, to end at 2,044.16. The Nasdaq composite lost 82.64 points, or

1.7 percent, to 4,859.79. The Nasdaq is still up nearly 3 percent so far this year.

The prospect of the Fed

Fed's ultra-low rate policy, in place since 2008, has allowed companies to borrow cheaply and has made

500 has tripled since hitting a recession low on March 9, 2009.

A Fed rate increase would also be likely to drive up the value of the U.S. dollar even more. Though a strong dollar sounds good, it can hurt U.S. companies. It makes their goods costlier for foreigners and shrinks the value of profits they collect overseas.

"Regardless of whether the Fed hikes in June or September, it's coming and it's not very far away," said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at OANDA. "That makes the dollar very strong compared to its peers."

On Tuesday, the euro dropped 1.3 percent against the dollar to a 12-year low of \$1.07.

Talk of U.S. rate hikes comes as central banks in other major countries are trying to jolt their economies to

faster growth by lowering borrowing costs. On Monday, the European Central Bank began buying bonds to lower long-term interest rates in a program called quantitative easing, or QE. The central bank in Japan has a similar effort underway. The U.S. Fed ended its bond purchases last year.

When central banks move in opposite directions, it can cause disruptions in the global flow of capital into bonds and currencies and, in turn, stocks.

The hit to U.S. companies from the stronger dollar comes as they struggle to meet high earnings targets. In October, earnings per share for the S&P 500 were expected to jump 12 percent in 2015, according to S&P Capital IQ. Now, earnings per share are expected to increase just 1.5 percent. □



Specialist Meric Greenbaum works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. U.S. stocks fell sharply on Tuesday, wiping out this year's gains for the Dow Jones industrial average and the Standard & Poor's 500 index.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

raising interest rates for the first time in nine years is unnerving investors. The

stocks more appealing relative to bonds by pushing bond yields lower. The S&P

Credit Suisse shares surge as bank switches CEOs

BERLIN (AP) — Shares in Credit Suisse surged after the Swiss bank sought to turn the page on a period of scandals and fines by replacing its CEO, Brady W. Dougan, with the head of British insurer Prudential, Tidjane Thiam.

Dougan will step down at the end of June to give way to Thiam, who helped Prudential expand into emerging markets in recent

years.

Credit Suisse shares were up 8.2 percent on the news, trading at 25.11 francs per share in late day trading in Zurich.

The Swiss bank's chairman, Urs Rohner, said in a statement that Dougan had kept Credit Suisse Group AG "on track in recent years despite a complex environment and considerable headwinds in the

global financial services industry." Dougan, an American who joined Credit Suisse First Boston in 1990, successfully steered the Swiss bank through the 2008 financial crisis but failed to prevent it from paying billions in fines for helping foreign clients evade taxes. Last year, the bank agreed to pay U.S. authorities \$2.6 billion in penalties for helping clients dodge taxes. The

bank last month amended its fourth quarter 2014 earnings release to reflect an additional 230 million francs (\$230 million) in charges for litigation and investigations in the United States related to mortgages.

Thiam, who was born in Ivory Coast and also holds French citizenship, comes to Credit Suisse with a strong track record at Prudential, where he success-

fully expanded into developing markets, said Rohner. The bank said Thiam speaks English, French and German — an asset in Switzerland, where the bank still has a large retail business and many employees. Thiam said he looked forward to maintaining "the strong momentum of the franchise and (serving) our clients in Switzerland and around the world." □

Pepperoni Turns Partisan



PAUL KRUGMAN

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If you want to know what a political party really stands for, follow the money. Pundits and the public are often deceived; remember when George W. Bush was a moderate, and Chris Christie a reasonable guy who could reach out to Democrats? Major donors, however, generally have a very good idea of what they are buying, so tracking their spending tells you a lot.

So what do contributions in the last election cycle say? The Democrats are, not too surprisingly, the party of Big Labor (or what's left of it) and Big Law. Unions and lawyers are the most pro-Democratic major interest groups. Republicans are the party of Big Energy and Big Food. They dominate contributions from extractive industries and agribusiness. And they are, in particular, the party of Big Pizza.

No, really. A recent Bloomberg report noted that major pizza companies have become intensely, aggressively partisan. Pizza Hut gives a remarkable 99 percent of its money to Republicans. Other industry players serve Democrats a somewhat larger slice of the pie (sorry, couldn't help myself), but, overall, the politics of pizza these days resemble those of, say, coal or tobacco. And pizza partisanship tells you a lot about what is happening to U.S. politics as a whole.

Why should pizza, of all things, be a divisive issue? The immediate answer is that it has been caught up in the nutrition wars. America's body politic has gotten a lot heavier over the past half-century, and, while there is dispute about the causes, an unhealthy diet - fast food in particular - is surely a prime suspect. As Bloomberg notes, some parts of the food industry have responded to pressure from government agencies and food activists by trying to offer healthier options, but the pizza sector has chosen instead to take a stand for the right to add extra cheese.

The rhetoric of this fight is familiar. The pizza lobby portrays itself as the defender of personal choice and personal responsibility. It's up to the consumer, so the argument goes, to decide what he or she wants to eat, and we don't need a nanny state telling us what to do.

It's an argument many people find persuasive, but it doesn't hold up too well once you look at what's actually at stake in the pizza disputes. Nobody is propos-

ing a ban on pizza, or indeed any limitation on what informed adults should be allowed to eat. Instead, the fights involve things like labeling requirements - giving consumers the information to make informed choices - and the nutritional content of school lunches, that is, food decisions that aren't made by responsible adults but are instead made on behalf of children.

Beyond that, anyone who has struggled with weight issues - which means, surely, the majority of U.S. adults - knows that this is a domain where the easy rhetoric of "free to choose" rings hollow. Even if you know very well that you will soon regret that extra slice, it's extremely hard to act on that knowledge.

Nutrition, where increased choice can be a bad thing, because it all too often leads to bad choices despite the best of intentions, is one of those areas - like smoking - where there's a lot to be said for a nanny state. Oh, and diet isn't purely a personal choice, either; obesity imposes large costs on the economy as a whole.

But you shouldn't expect such arguments to gain much traction. For one thing, free-market fundamentalists don't want to hear about qualifications to their doctrine.

Also, with big corporations involved, the Upton Sinclair principle applies: It's difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends on his not understanding it. And beyond all that, it turns out that nutritional partisanship taps into deeper cultural issues.

At one level, there is a clear correlation between lifestyles and partisan orientation: heavier states tend to vote Republican, and the GOP lean is especially pronounced in what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention call the "diabetes belt" of counties, mostly in the South, that suffer most from that particular health problem. Not coincidentally, officials from that region have led the pushback against efforts to make school lunches healthier.

At a still deeper level, health experts may say that we need to change how we eat, pointing to scientific evidence, but the Republican base doesn't much like experts, science, or evidence. Debates about nutrition policy bring out a kind of venomous anger - much of it now directed at Michelle Obama, who has been championing school lunch reforms - that is all too familiar if you've been following the debate over climate change.

Pizza partisanship, then, sounds like a joke, but it isn't. It is, instead, a case study in the toxic mix of big money, blind ideology and popular prejudices that is making America ever less governable. □

Yet Another African Boat Heads To Europe



Benjamin Netanyahu's Iran Thing



ROGER COHEN

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Let's begin with Benjamin Netanyahu's Iran logic. He portrays a rampaging Islamic Republic that "now dominates four Arab capitals, Baghdad, Damascus, Beirut and Sanaa," a nation "gobbling" other countries on a "march of conquest, subjugation and terror." Then, in the same speech, he describes Iran as "a very vulnerable regime" on the brink of folding.

Well, which is it? The Israeli prime minister dismisses a possible nuclear accord, its details still unclear, as "a very bad deal" that "paves Iran's path to the bomb." He says just maintain the pressure and, as it by magic, "a much better deal" will materialize (thereby showing immense condescension toward the ministers of the six major powers who have been working on a doable deal that tinges Iran's nuclear capacity so that it is compatible only with civilian use). Yet Netanyahu knows the first thing that will happen if talks collapse is that Russia and China will undermine the solidarity behind effective Iran sanctions.

So, where is the leverage to secure that "much better deal"? Netanyahu lambastes the notion of a nuclear deal lasting 10 years (President Barack Obama has suggested this is a minimum). He portrays that decade as a period in which Iran's "voracious appetite for aggression grows with each passing year." He thereby dismisses the more plausible notion that greater economic

contact with the world and the gradual emergence of a young generation of Iranians drawn to the West - as well as the inevitable dimming of the ardor of Iran's revolution - will lessen such aggression.

With similar sleight of hand, he dances over the fact that military action - the solution implicit in Netanyahu's demands for Iranian nuclear capitulation - would most likely set back the Iranian program by a couple of years at most, while guaranteeing that Iran races for a bomb in the aftermath.

What better assures Israel's security, a decade of strict limitation and inspection of Iran's nuclear program that prevents it from making a bomb, or a war that delays the program a couple of years, locks in the most radical factions in Tehran and intensifies Middle Eastern violence? It's a no-brainer.

No wonder Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic leader in the House, saw Netanyahu's speech to Congress as an "insult to the intelligence of the United States." Netanyahu's "profound obligation" to speak of the Iranian threat to the Jewish people proved to be a glib opportunity for fear-mongering and evasion above all.

Netanyahu's credibility is low. In 1993, in an Op-Ed article in The New York Times headlined "Peace in Our Time?" he compared the late Yitzhak Rabin to Neville Chamberlain for the Oslo Accords. Rabin's widow never forgave him.

For more than a decade now, he has said that Iran is on the brink of a bomb and has threatened Israeli military action - and hoped his hyperbole would be forgotten. He called the 2013 interim agreement with Iran a "historic mistake"; the accord has proved a historic achievement that reversed Iran's nuclear momentum.

Invoking Munich and appeasement is, it seems, Netanyahu's flip reaction to any attempt at Middle Eastern diplomacy. Here, once again, before the Congress, was the by-now familiar

analogy drawn between Iran and the Nazis. Its implication, of course, is that Obama, like the great Rabin, is some latter-day Chamberlain.

The kindest thing that can be said of Netanyahu's attempt to equate Iran with the medieval barbarians of Islamic State, and to dismiss the fact that Iranian help today furthers America's strategic priority of defeating those knife-wielding slayers, is that it was an implausible stretch. Of course Netanyahu mentioned the Persian vicerey Haman, who plotted to destroy the Jews, but not Cyrus of Persia, who ended the Babylonian exile of the Jews. The prime minister's obsessive Iran demonization runs on selective history.

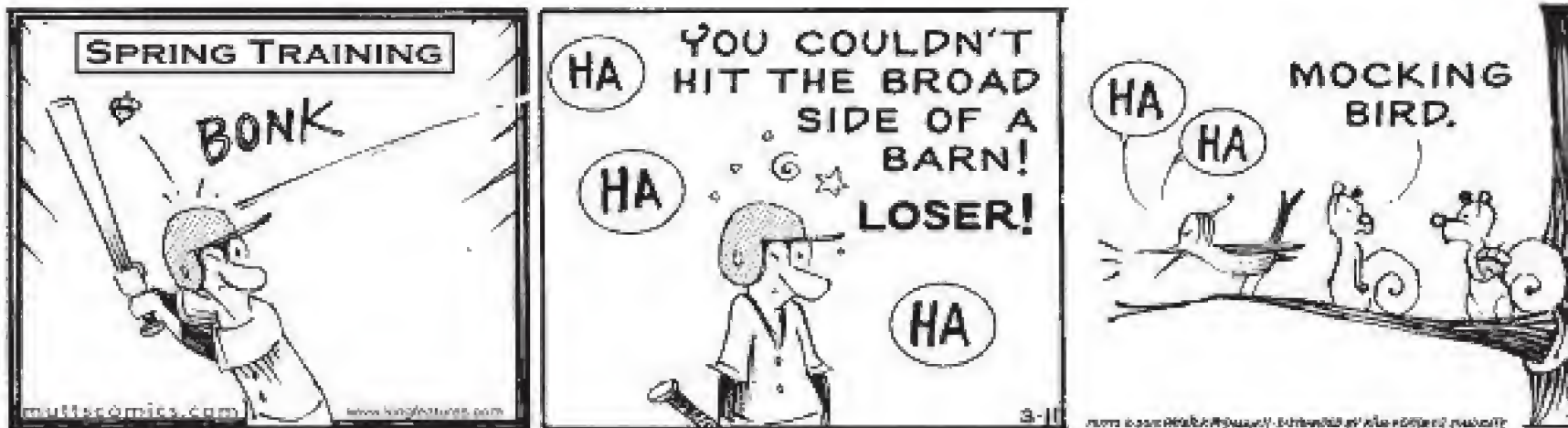
The Islamic Republic is repressive. It is hostile to Israel, underwrites Hezbollah and has sponsored terrorism. Its human rights record is abject. The regime is wedded to anti-Americanism (unlike the 80 million people of Iran, many of whom are drawn to America). But the most important diplomacy is conducted with enemies.

Given Iran's mastery of the nuclear fuel cycle, there is no better outcome for Israel and the world than the successful conclusion of the tough deal sought by Obama: one involving the intensive verification over an extended period of a much-reduced enrichment program that assures that Iran is kept at least one year away from any potential "break-out" to bomb manufacture.

One word did not appear in Netanyahu's speech: Palestine. The statelessness of the Palestinians is the real long-term threat to Israel as a Jewish and democratic state. Iran has been a cleverly manipulated distraction from this fact.

Among foreign leaders, nobody has been invited to address Congress more often than Netanyahu. He now stands equal with Winston Churchill. Behind Netanyahu trail Nelson Mandela and Yitzhak Rabin. That's a pretty devastating commentary on the state of contemporary U.S. political culture and the very notion of leadership. □

Mutts



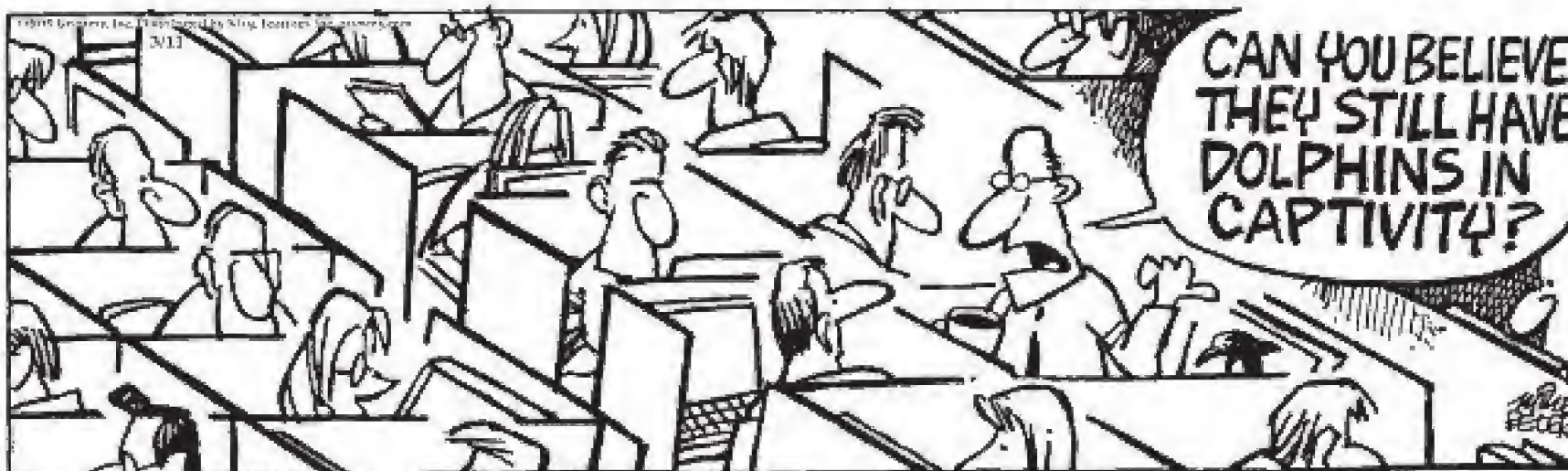
6 Chix



Blondie



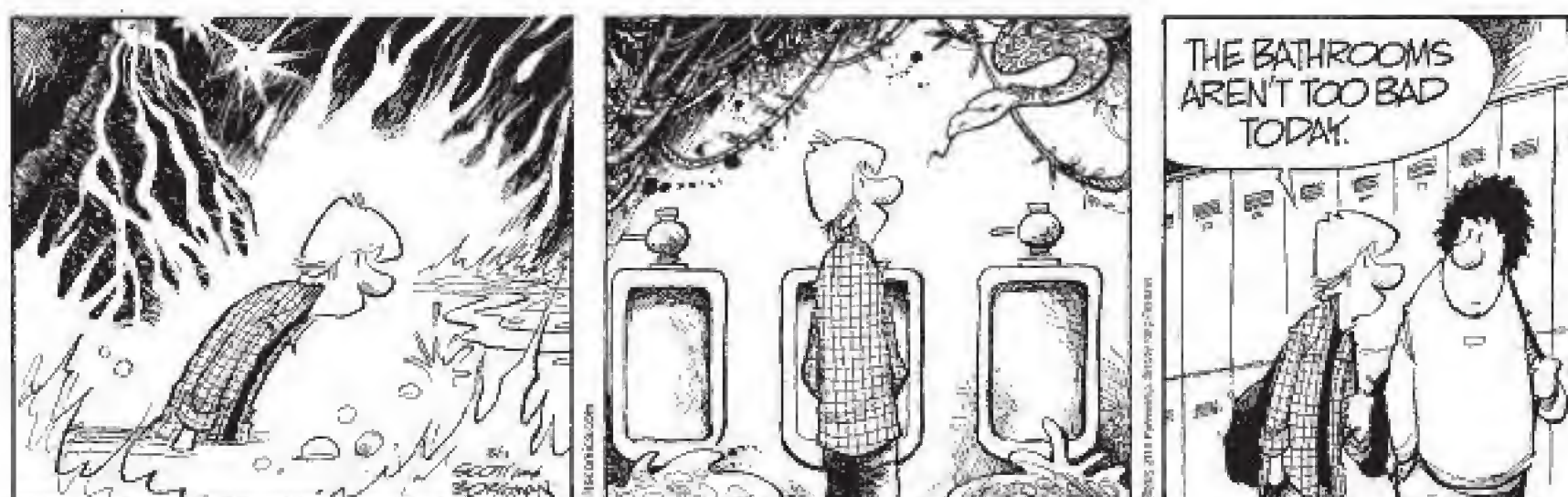
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	8	1	9	2	3			
	6		4			9		
9				6			5	
3				9			1	
1	4	5	6	3			8	
	2	9	7				4	
							9	
							7	
			8	6	5	2	1	

Difficulty Level ★★

3/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

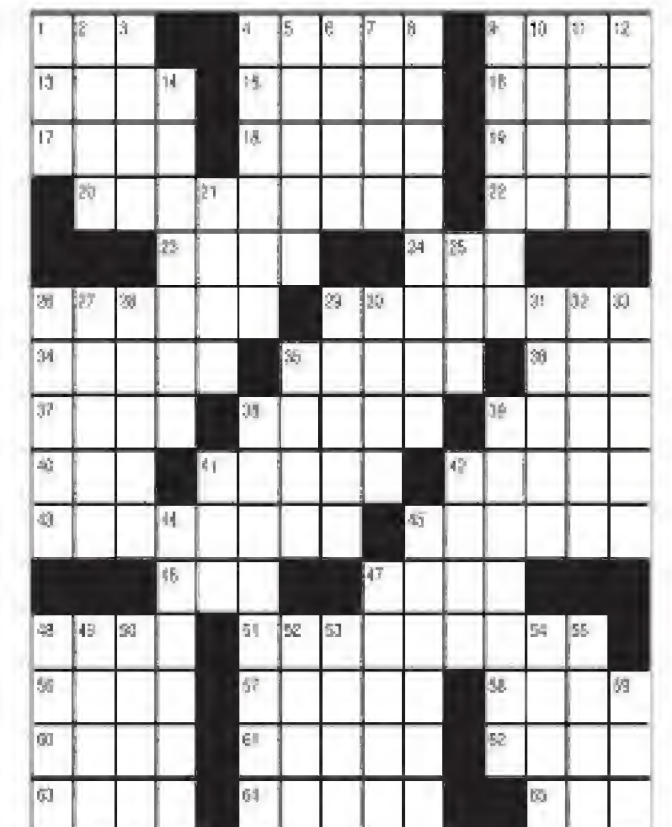
1	3	8	4	6	5	7	9	2
2	9	6	7	3	1	4	5	8
7	4	5	8	2	9	1	6	3
9	6	1	5	4	3	2	8	7
5	7	4	2	9	8	6	3	1
3	8	2	1	7	6	5	4	9
8	1	7	3	5	4	9	2	6
6	5	3	9	1	2	8	7	4
4	2	9	6	8	7	3	1	5

ACROSS

- 1 Afternoon social
- 4 ___ for; selected
- 9 Götter — Mickelson
- 13 Dumbo's "wings"
- 15 Measuring device
- 16 Houston school
- 17 Carve on glass
- 18 Saturn's features
- 19 Singles
- 20 Brazen
- 22 Probability
- 23 Face, slangily
- 24 Tiny fellow with pointy ears
- 26 ___ up; divides
- 29 Revolt
- 34 Contaminate
- 35 Run-ins
- 36 Neither's partner
- 37 Ladder step
- 38 SAT and others
- 39 Incl. military alliance
- 40 Suffix for treat or expert
- 41 Liberates
- 42 Evergreens
- 43 Most annoying
- 45 Break in a kid's school day
- 46 Org. for Bulls and Bucks
- 47 Unpleasantly moist
- 48 None
- 51 Take the place of; force out
- 56 Leave a room
- 57 Come together
- 58 At a ___ for words; stunned
- 60 Circus shelter
- 61 Makes angry
- 62 Tenth-grader, for short
- 63 ___ for; requests
- 64 Chris of tennis
- 65 Deli loaf

Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

3/11/15



Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

MACS	ACMES	ATMS
ACHE	SAINY	DROP
YEAR	TASTE	MEMO
ASPIRIN	FEERIEST	
OUR	ORDER	
BOSUN	BUS	PACED
RAPS	MAT	SALAMI
ARE	FARAWAY	BOG
VEEDED	GIG	ZITI
ODDER	MEN	TENET
CARES	PEA	
RESOLVED	REALIST	
OAHU	EDDIE	ONTO
PREP	FLOCK	UFOS
ENDS	SEEKS	SOWS

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3/11/15

DOWN

- 1 Peg for Tiger
- 2 Dines
- 3 Curved beam overhead
- 4 Mean woman in a fairy tale
- 5 Buckets
- 6 Melody
- 7 Breakfast order
- 8 Baked Alaska and apple pie
- 9 Checks text for errors, for short
- 10 Female red deer
- 11 Frosted
- 12 Not as much
- 14 Molding
- 21 Mongrel dog
- 25 Fleur-de—
- 26 Undress
- 27 TV remote button
- 28 Queues
- 29 Rattled
- 30 Nixon & Sajak
- 31 Ridiculous
- 32 Short letters
- 33 Disgusting
- 35 Observes
- 38 ___ chest; giraffe's hind
- 39 Five-cent coins
- 41 Small lie
- 42 Bic products
- 44 Late actor Don
- 45 Most unusual
- 47 Talk out of
- 48 Sorority letter
- 49 Alimony recipients
- 50 Skater's oval
- 52 Yale or Harvard; abbr.
- 53 Stack
- 54 Room entrance
- 55 Catch sight of
- 59 That woman

Classifieds

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24/7

Report: Chance of mega-quake hitting California increases

ALICIA CHANG

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Scientists are virtually certain that California will be rocked by a strong earthquake in the next 30 years. Now they say the risk of a mega-quake is more likely than previously thought.

The chance of a magnitude-8 quake striking the state in the next three decades jumped to 7 percent from 4.7 percent, mainly because scientists took into account the possibility that several faults can shake at once, releasing seismic energy that results in greater destruction.

While the risk of a mega-quake is higher than past estimates, it's more likely — greater than 99 percent chance — that California will be rattled by a magnitude-6.7 jolt similar in size to the 1994 Northridge disaster. The chance of a Northridge-size quake was slightly higher in Northern California than Southern California — 95 percent versus 93 percent, according to a report released Tuesday by the U.S. Geological Survey.

"California is earthquake country, and residents should live every day like it could be the day of a big one," USGS geophysicist



In this Jan. 17, 1994 file photo, the covered body of Los Angeles Police Officer Clarence Wayne Dean, 46, lies near his motorcycle which plunged off the State Highway 14 overpass that collapsed onto Interstate 5, after a magnitude-6.7 Northridge earthquake.

Associated Press

and lead author Ned Field said. The latest seismic calculations largely mirror previous findings issued by the USGS in 2008. Back then, scientists also determined that California faced an almost certain risk of experiencing a Northridge-size quake.

The new report included

newly discovered fault zones and the possibility that a quake can jump from fault to fault. Because of this knowledge, the odds of a catastrophic quake — magnitude 8 or larger — in the next 30 years increased. There is a 93 percent chance of a magnitude 7 or larger occurring over

the same period and a 48 percent chance of a magnitude 7.5 — similar to previous estimates.

Thousands of quakes every year hit California, sandwiched between two of Earth's major tectonic plates, the Pacific and North American plates. Most are too small to be felt.

Of the more than 300 faults that crisscross the state, the southern segment of the San Andreas Fault — which runs from central California to the Salton Sea near the U.S.-Mexico border — remains the greatest threat because it hasn't ruptured in more than three centuries. □

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Jury finds Pharrell, Thicke copied for 'Blurred Lines' song

ANTHONY McCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A jury awarded Marvin Gaye's children nearly \$7.4 million Tuesday after determining singers Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams copied their father's music to create "Blurred Lines," the biggest hit song of 2013.

Gaye's daughter Nona Gaye wept as the verdict was read and was hugged by her attorney.

"Right now, I feel free," she said outside court. "Free from ... Pharrell Williams and Robin Thicke's chains and what they tried to keep on us and the lies that were told."

"Blurred Lines" has sold more than 7.3 million copies in the U.S. alone, according to Nielsen SoundScan figures. It earned a Grammy Awards nomination and netted Williams and Thicke millions of dollars.

The case was a struggle between two of music's biggest names: Williams has sold more than 100 million records worldwide during his career as a singer-producer, and Gaye performed hits such as "Sexual Healing" and "How Sweet It Is (To be Loved by You)" remain popular.

The verdict could tarnish the legacy of Williams, a reliable hit-maker who has won Grammy Awards and appears on NBC's music competition show "The Voice." He and Thicke are "undoubtedly disappointed," said their lead attorney, Howard King.

"They're unwavering in their absolute conviction that they wrote this song independently," he said.

Thicke and Williams earned more than \$7 million apiece on the song, according to testimony. King has said a

decision in favor of Gaye's heirs could have a chilling effect on musicians who try to emulate an era or another artist's sound.

Larry Iser, an intellectual property attorney who has represented numerous musicians in copyright cases, was critical of the outcome.

"Unfortunately, today's jury verdict has blurred the lines between protectable elements of a musical composition and the unprotectable musical style or groove exemplified by Marvin Gaye," Iser said. "Although Gaye was the Prince of Soul, he didn't own a copyright to the genre, and Thicke and Williams' homage to the feel of Marvin Gaye is not infringing."

Gaye's children — Nona, Frankie and Marvin Gaye III — sued the two singers in 2013.

Their lawyer, Richard Busch, branded Williams and Thicke liars who went beyond trying to emulate the sound of Gaye's late-1970s music and copied the R&B legend's hit "Got to Give It Up" outright.

The family "fought this fight despite every odd being against them," Busch said after the verdict, which could face years of appeals.

Thicke told jurors he didn't write "Blurred Lines," which Williams testified he crafted in about an hour in mid-2012.

Williams testified that Gaye's music was part of the soundtrack of his youth. But the seven-time Grammy winner said he didn't use any of it to create "Blurred Lines."

During closing arguments, Busch accused Thicke and Williams of lying about how the song was created. He told jurors they could award

Gaye's children millions of dollars if they determined the copyright of "Got to Give It Up" was infringed. King denied there were any substantial similarities between "Blurred Lines" and the sheet music Gaye submitted to obtain copyright protection.

Williams has become a household name — known simply as Pharrell — thanks to his hit song "Happy" and his work as a judge on the "The Voice." He wrote the majority of "Blurred Lines" and recorded it in one night with Thicke. A segment by rapper T.I. was added later. □



In this Wednesday, March 4, 2015 photo, Pharrell Williams and an unidentified woman leave Los Angeles Federal Court after testifying at trial in Los Angeles.

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Zen Buddhism and storytelling merge in novelist's journey

TERRENCE PETTY

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Novelist Ruth Ozeki's spiritual companion is a Zen master named Dogen. Dead for nearly 800 years, when you listen to Ozeki, you know he's there.

Addressing nearly 2,300 Ozeki fans inside a concert hall here, the critically acclaimed novelist talked about Dogen's perception of time.

Each day consists of 6,400,099,980 moments, and in the time it takes to snap your finger, 65 moments have passed, the Japanese Zen master wrote in the 13th century.

Of course, this is "rhetorical sleight of hand," Ozeki told the crowd. Counting moments is like trying to grab a fistful of water. But Dogen has a purpose: to get humans to slow down and think about their actions at every moment and not rush through the days. Be aware. Be alive.

"I find his view of time astonishing," Ozeki says of Dogen. "There's always enough time, if you just slow down."

Ozeki's commitment to Zen Buddhism has grown over the past several years. Her spiritual and creative lives are intertwined.

Ozeki was raised in Connecticut by a Japanese



This Feb. 18, 2015 photo provided by Literary Arts shows, Ruth Ozeki, left, with Dr. Dreyer at Grant High School, in Portland, Ore.

mother and an American father. Neither was religious.

Her very first memory is of a visit by her grandparents to Connecticut in 1959. The 3-year-old girl went to tell her grandparents that breakfast was ready. When she entered the room they were sitting in Zen meditation.

"They were at eye level with me. I wasn't used to seeing adults sitting on the floor," Ozeki told The Associated Press in an interview in Portland, where she

spent a week as artist-in-residence for Literary Arts, a nonprofit that promotes literature and writers.

Ozeki's Japanese heritage tugged at her. After graduating from Smith College in 1980, Ozeki received a fellowship to study Japanese literature at Nara Women's University. While in Japan she also worked as a bar hostess, studied Noh drama, started a language school and taught English at Kyoto Sangyo University. After moving to New York City in 1985, she designed

props and sets for low-budget horror movies. In the 1990s she started making her own documentaries, including the award-winning autobiographical film "Halving The Bones."

Her first two novels were about the eco-dangers of American food production: "My Year of Meats" and "All Over Creation," published in 1998 and 2003, respectively.

Ozeki had long been drawn to meditation, and she became more serious about it as her parents aged and died.

Ozeki's spiritual beliefs helped shape her most recent novel, "A Tale For The Time Being," a finalist in 2013 for the prestigious Man Booker Prize. The title borrows from an essay by Dogen on time titled "Uji," often translated from the Japanese as "The Time-Being."

The novel features a "Hello Kitty" lunchbox that washes ashore on an island in British Columbia, a Japanese-American woman named Ruth who finds the lunchbox, a teenage girl in Japan who owns the lunchbox, and a 104-year-old Zen Buddhist nun at a remote monastery in Japan. Magic is woven into the book. Words vanish, ghosts appear, characters

change shape, and time does weird things. These metaphysical elements come right out of the box of Buddhist principles, intended to convey messages that all things are interconnected, nothing is permanent, and there is no abiding self.

Ozeki's book is literally an act of Zen. She uses literary techniques that seek to collapse time and space in the readers' imagination. The effect on readers can be similar to what practitioners of Zen feel as they sit in meditation.

In 2010 Ozeki was ordained a Zen priest.

"I'm a priest with training wheels," says Ozeki, who continues to go through various stages of Zen training.

The novelist and her husband live on an island near British Columbia's rainy Desolation Sound, just like Ruth in "A Tale For The Time Being."

Last fall, she had two months of head monk training at the Zen community in Vancouver, British Columbia. She taught classes, gave talks, offered tea, and cleaned the toilets, a chore that helps keep Zen priests from getting lofty ideas about themselves.

During her artist-in-residence stay in Portland, Ozeki spoke with high school students and also conducted classes in fiction writing and on meditation and creativity.

As she wrapped up her visit, Ozeki spoke at Portland's grand Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. At the close of the evening, Ozeki gave the audience an introduction to Zen meditation.

She asked everyone to put their hands on their laps and sit up straight. With Ozeki softly coaching them, nearly 2,300 souls watched their thoughts and their worries pass through their minds, not dwelling on them, quietly letting them go, being mindful of every moment.

Dogen, Ozeki's ancient companion, did not say a word. But he was surely smiling. □

Mexican actress Stephanie Sigman to be latest 'Bond girl'

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican actress Stephanie Sigman will become the latest "Bond girl" when she appears in 007's upcoming movie "Spectre."

The official 007 website "Inside the World of James Bond" is announcing Sigman's role in the 24th Bond movie. It says she will play a character named "Estrella" opposite Daniel Craig as Bond.

Sigman starred in the award-winning 2011 Mexican film "Miss Bala," about a beauty pageant contestant involved with drug



In this May 13, 2011, file photo, actress Stephanie Sigman arrives for the screening of Polisse at the 64th international film festival, in Cannes, southern France.

Associated Press

traffickers.

Linda Christian, the Hollywood starlet of the 1940s who was born in Mexico, was arguably the first Bond girl.

In 1954 she starred as James Bond's love interest in the television adaptation of the novel Casino Royale.

Christian died in 2011 at the age of 87.

Nicaraguan-American actress Barbara Carrera appeared as Fatima Blush in 1984's Never Say Never Again. □

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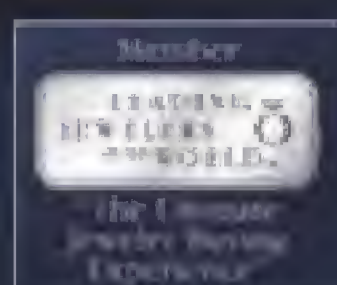
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